

y February 16 1977

ve pence

THE TIMES

Making small talk:
guest column by
Lady Wilson, page 9

r Callaghan links again out worker directors

han and leaders of the Confederation
Industry agreed last night to study the
of putting aside temporarily the
oposals for worker directors. Instead
Minister suggested discussions about
on below board level.

posals to CBI put f confrontation

According to Lord Watkinson, the Prime Minister then said that he also had problems and asked whether the CBI would be willing to "start from the bottom", which Lord Watkinson interpreted as meaning participation below board level.

The CBI is to ask its grand council today to mandate Mr John Methven, the director general, to open exploratory discussions on this point with Mr Dell. It was stressed last night that these would be to discover whether talks of the kind envisaged by the Prime Minister would be worth while.

Lord Watkinson said: "I think the answer is that we have not really progressed very far. The honest answer is that we have not fallen at the first fence."

Last night's move had all the hallmarks of a delaying tactic by the Government, which is in a dilemma.

It knows that, if it goes too strongly in the direction suggested by Bullock, it will face immense opposition from the employers probably resulting in non-cooperation on the industrial strategy.

If on the other hand it fails to deliver realistic proposals to the TUC, it will do considerable damage to the continuing talks on pay and the social contract.

Pressure for free pay bargaining mounts

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The TUC economic committee meets this evening to discuss extending the social contract against a background of mounting pressure to return to free collective bargaining and force a change in Government economic policy.

Lord Watkinson, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday that in the next pay round the nation could not afford increases of more than about 3 per cent, after allowing for wage drift (details, page 17).

Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said yesterday that resolutions to his forthcoming policy-making national committee meeting "almost overwhelmingly" called for an end to wage controls. The influential local government officers said they did not want "a one-sided contract".

The full extent of rank-and-file opposition in the national committee of the dominant engineering section of the AUEW is not yet known, but a tactical move by the union's president yesterday suggests that the top craft union will shelve any form of restrictive pay policy. Mr Scanlon won approval from his executive to oppose an early TUC conference to discuss any agreement with the Government on pay.

He said the unions should first be able to discuss their attitudes. That is the left's delaying tactic to allow the current groundswell of discontent over wage restraint to run its full course.

The issue of when and how the unions should debate the outcome of present negotiations with Mr Healey is a crucial item on today's TUC committee agenda, but pressure for the six-man negotiating team to ask for more came from the 683,000-member National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) yesterday.

Mr Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of NALGO, said: "We have consistently urged constructive public spending policies on the Government, and the extent to which the Government is prepared to act to restore cuts will affect our attitude to stage three of the social contract."

NALGO has supported the call

Indian leader rejects authoritarian image in an exclusive interview with The Times We will accept the verdict of the people, Mrs Gandhi says

From William Frankel
Delhi, Feb 15

Mrs Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, strongly rejected charges of authoritarianism in an exclusive interview with The Times at her home today. "Really the election is a clear refutation of these allegations," she said.

"We will accept the verdict of the people after the election, whatever the government, I hope all parties will be able to get together to solve the problems of the country."

There was no hint of authoritarianism in the personality of the woman I saw. Far from being a woman of steel, as she is often portrayed, her manner was diffident, even nervous. Her replies to questions were hesitant, sometimes vague. On the whole, she skillfully avoided specifics and preferred general observations.

I referred to the comments by her aunt, Mrs Pandit, now campaigning for the Janata opposition party, about her dictatorial tendencies.

Mrs Gandhi calmly replied that she could not accept their validity. "There have, in the past, been differences between us. Even when Mr Shastri was Prime Minister and she was a member of Parliament she expressed herself in a similar fashion."

She said the same charge had been made against her father and that "one of the difficulties in our party is that we have not had enough discipline. I

am not for imposed discipline—it must come from self-restraint. ... We believe in the people, though they are sometimes misled."

Why had she chosen to relax the emergency rather than end it? Mrs Gandhi: "You couldn't have elections without relaxing it, but I don't think the time is ripe to remove it." Nothing concerning the elections remains. There are now only two pertinent aspects, one which enables quick and effective action to be taken against smuggling, which was widespread. Black market money had become a parallel currency and the arrest of smugglers had been beneficial to the balance of payments. The second continuing application of the emergency was the ban on three groups "not political, but fanning communal passions and indulging in violence."

Why could not the courts deal with smuggling and violence? Mrs Gandhi: "The way our law is administered, there are many methods for delay, and bail, and so on," which prevented effective action. The courts were also overloaded and this caused delay, too. "If we suddenly did that, the opposition would claim we were packing the courts."

In her final comment on the emergency, she said: "We could suddenly slip back into disorder. I hope not, but that is why the emergency should remain, though we are not using it."



Mrs Indira Gandhi addressing her supporters in Delhi recently.

She had mentioned fair elections and I asked whether they could be considered as fair when the Government monopolized television and radio and could exploit all Government facilities.

"Television and radio," she said, "are not really used for elections as such." Anyway most of the press was with the opposition. Except for the security she received as Prime Minister, she, like other ministers, paid for cars and other Government

facilities used for party purposes. "The opposition are equally able to rent cars," she said and she doubted whether Mr Ram [the former Agriculture Minister and now leader of the opposition group called Congress for Democracy] was right when he had said that he could not hire cars because drivers were intimidated.

Was the notice of the election long enough to give the opposition a fair chance to organize?

Mrs Gandhi: "Our people had no more notice than others. If everyone has equal notice, we are equally handicapped. They have the tremendous advantage that, because of the emergency, the opposition was constantly attacking the Government. She also claimed that because some opposition leaders had just come out of prison they had the advantage of public sympathy."

About detainees, the Prime Minister said: "We have given clear instructions that all political detainees, except the three banned groups, should be released. I think almost all are, but some who claim to be political detainees are likely to have been held for some anti-social activity."

She described as "ridiculous nonsense" allegations that her son, Sanjay, was running the Government. "He has had nothing to do with a single Government decision. They were all made by the Cabinet or a Cabinet committee."

Mrs Gandhi's son, page 8

Concern continues as condition of Mr Crosland deteriorates

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

The condition of Mr Crosland, the Foreign Secretary, continued to cause serious concern yesterday. A bulletin from the Foreign Office in the afternoon said he remained unconscious after being admitted to hospital on Sunday suffering from a stroke. His condition had deteriorated since the previous bulletin and he remained dangerously ill.

His wife, Susan, has been with him continuously and her younger daughter, Ellen, joined her yesterday from London. Her daughter Sheila was expected to arrive from America.

A statement by Mr David Lipsey, Mr Crosland's political adviser, said he was receiving extensive nursing care and everything possible was being done to ensure that he was comfortable.

Mr Lipsey was one of two Foreign Office officials who were given overnight accom-

modation at the hospital near Mr Crosland last night.

Dr Owen, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, represented Mr Crosland at a colloquy in London of European parliamentarians yesterday and attended a memorial service for Lord Avon in Westminster Abbey.

It is clear that the gravity of Mr Crosland's illness is such that he will be unable to return to a full role in the Foreign Office for some time.

If he were out of action merely for a few weeks the overall direction of the Foreign Office himself, pending Mr Crosland's return, but fears that Mr Crosland may have to leave active politics altogether have led to some talk in Whitehall of the likelihood of a successor's being appointed.

The ministers best qualified, political observers, says, are Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mrs Williams.

Mr Healey has always wanted to serve as foreign secretary and was minister of defence for six years, but the Prime Minister said that this was a very bad time to leave the Chancellor, with the Budget being prepared.

Mrs Williams is also a strong personality with sufficient experience and authority for the post.

Queen's message: The Queen has sent a message to Mrs Crosland from the royal yacht Britannia (The Press Association report). There were also messages from the Prime Minister and senior Cabinet ministers.

Mr John Davies, shadow Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that ministers worked under intolerable strain.

However, Dr Eric Wright, director of the British United Provident Association (Bupa) Medical Centre, said MPs have a longer life-expectancy than the national average, and lead less stressful lives than businessmen.

Nine back Britain in conserving fisheries

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 15

EEC agricultural ministers reached hard-fought agreement here today on measures to protect fish stocks within their new 200-mile limit, but left open to member states to introduce additional temporary and non-discriminatory restrictions in their own sectors.

This means that the steps already initiated unilaterally by Britain last week to ban the fishing of Norway pout off north-east Scotland from February 21 have been endorsed.

After the meeting, Dr Gavin Strang, who led the British delegation, said: "This is a breakthrough for Britain and British fishermen. We have succeeded in convincing the Community of the great importance we attach to measures to conserve our fish stocks and of the urgent need for such measures."

could be defended as non-discriminatory, since it will apply equally to all EEC vessels including Ireland's, but in practice only a handful of Irish boats are big enough to be covered by the ban. The measure will mainly affect the distant-water fleets of Holland, Germany, France and Britain.

For Britain, the breakthrough came today with the abandonment of Danish objections to the extent of the area covered by the Norway pout ban. The Danish minister promised to recommend the proposal to his Government, when it is formed after today's general elections.

Apart from the ban on pout, the other conservation measures agreed today include:

1. A ban on fishing of herring in the North Sea from February 29 until April 30 and in the Celtic Sea from March 1 until the end of the year. The measures to be taken in the North Sea after April 30 will be decided in due course by the Council of Ministers.
2. The maximum percentage of admissible white fish allowed in catches of other species will be reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent from April 1, subsequent "by-catch" measures will be put forward in the light of scientific evidence by the end of May.
3. All boats with processing facilities additional to those of filleting, freezing and reducing fish offal will be banned from Community waters. (The idea here is to permit German "freezer" trawlers but to keep out Russian "factory" ships).
4. The European Commission will submit proposals by mid-March for introducing measures that would make the use of large-mesh nets compulsory for certain species and also prohibit the carrying of nets of different mesh size on the same voyage.

Some of the agreed measures are rather less restrictive than the British would ideally have wished. David Blake, page 19



ner Prime Ministers attended a memorial service for Lord Avon in Westminster yesterday. Left to right: Mr Heath, Lord Home of the Hirsell, Mr Macmillan, and Sir Wilson. (Details, page 16.)

to have last say referendums

Correspondent,

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so many cross-views and ideas on a concession to one ately provokes an half a dozen other

order and detailed rained down on the on Mr Foot. The only escaped being in early rising when report progress was 231 votes to 202, at majority of 29.

Mr Pym, leading on for the Tories, the concession and Foot for his new

mood of conciliation. But, as Mr Foot remarked, all that was going on only illustrated his difficulties. If he said that the Government would not consider anything he was accused of arrogance and stubbornness. If he made concessions he was accused of improvisation.

Earlier Mr Foot said that although the referendum would now be consultative, and would need to be ratified by the House of Commons, he believed that the result would be accepted by MPs whatever their views might be. The Government would accept the verdict of the people of Scotland and Wales and he hoped that the Scottish National Party would do likewise.

Welsh Liberal support: Mr Winston Roddick, chairman of the Welsh Liberal Party executive, is travelling to London today to urge the 13 Liberal MPs to support the Government's efforts to guillotine the devolution debate in the Commons and to put the issue to a referendum (Trevor Fishlock writes from Cardiff).

He said the Liberal vote might be crucial in keeping the devolution Bill alive. At the weekend, Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, said he would not ask his colleagues to support the guillotine unless the Scottish and Welsh assemblies were given taxation powers.

Plaid Cymru plea: Mr Dafydd Williams, general secretary of Plaid Cymru, sent a telegram to Mr Steel yesterday, urging his party to accept a Commons guillotine (The Press Association reports). He accused the Conservatives of deliberate time-wasting.

Parliamentary report, page 12

Dispute over Labour leadership nearer

By David Leigh

Labour's looming constitutional clash between the parliamentary party and the party outside Westminster over the election of the next leader came a step nearer last night when the party's MPs voted by a two to one majority that there should be no change in the present system.

The party's national executive committee was charged by the annual conference to find a way of expanding the electoral college, but last night the parliamentary party insisted on its traditional right to elect the leader.

Backbenchers voted by 97 votes to 43 against a suggestion that a motion from the liaison committee, the link between ministers and backbenchers, advocating the status quo, should be remitted for further consideration.

The issue was of crucial importance: if others in the party apart from MPs were allowed to vote for a leader, as the party conference wants, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, would be likely to become leader, probably in the 1980s, after Mr Callaghan.

If the election is confined to MPs the leadership is more likely to go to right or centrist figures such as Mr Healey, the Chancellor, or Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The Prime Minister, who was present at last night's meeting, does not want the system changed, nor does the right wing of the party. But there was opposition last night, much of it from the left.

Mr James Lamond (Oldham, East) wanted the resolution referred back. Mr Neil Kinnock (Bedwellty), a Tribune, called for the next leader to be elected by a national delegate con-

ference where MPs would have one vote each. Parliamentary candidates should also have one vote, constituency labour parties one vote each, trade unions one vote for every 100,000 members up to a maximum of 10, and other affiliated organizations one vote each.

That would tip the elections in favour of the views of party activists, making it much likely right-wingers calculate, that Mr Benn, darling of the constituencies, will get in if Mr Callaghan loses the next general election and retires.

Mr Michael English (Nottingham West) proposed that MPs should whittle down the number of candidates to two, and then the party at large should have a voice in the final selection.

Mr Cledwyn Hughes, chairman of the parliamentary party and a member of the liaison committee, told the meeting that the arguments were "overwhelmingly in favour" of leaving the MPs to elect the party leader.

Since 1906, when the parliamentary party asked the national executive committee to withdraw while it elected a leader, the system had worked effectively, he said.

The Tories had been in great difficulty in the past because they lacked a clear democratic leadership election system, and they had been driven to adopt a similar procedure.

It might prove necessary, he added, to elect a leader very quickly, after death or grave illness: the parliamentary party could produce a new leader in 24 hours, or at most 48, under the present system.

If a leader was elected who did not command the support of his colleagues in the House it would be "a recipe for chaos and conflict."

Britain loses the first round in torture case

The European Court of Human Rights has rejected the British argument that it should refrain from passing judgment on the uncorroborated word of the Irish alleged torturers of suspected IRA men by police and troops in 1971. The court's interim ruling on behalf of the 18 international judges in Strasbourg

also stated that it has jurisdiction over more than 200 cases of alleged brutality which Britain had hoped would not go to further proceedings. The way has been left open for Ireland to press its attempts to persuade the court to order the prosecution of members of the security forces.

Page 6

Detainee No 18 dies in S Africa

A young African, apparently trying to escape, fell 10 storeys to his death at police headquarters yesterday, bringing to 18 the number of people known to have died in detention since last March. In the South African Parliament, the Minister of Police refused to answer questions about deaths, injuries, detentions and court cases resulting from last year's rioting.

Page 8

Sir Harold talks of contempt

Sir Harold Wilson said that he was partly motivated by a desire to show his contempt for the press when he recommended Mrs Marcia Williams for a peerage. But it was ancillary, not a reason, he said.

Page 2

Premier wins in Danish election

Mr Joergensen, the Prime Minister, won a clear victory in the Danish general elections. Parties supporting his incomes policy appeared likely to win 100 of the 179 seats.

Earlier report, page 7

Railways 'could freeze to death'

British Rail "could freeze to death" if the present lack of investment in the organization continued. Mr Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, told a Commons select committee.

Page 2

Differing powers of Ombudsmen

Local Government Commissions investigating allegations of local government maladministration do not have the same power as the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) to demand the production of confidential information.

Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled in the High Court Law Report, page 11

LEE sit-in: Four moderates among the 12 members of the British National Party

Four moderates among the 12 members of the British National Party executive threatened to resign unless occupation of offices is called off.

Page 2

Housing the arts: The Scottish Philharmonic Society is to convert Newington St Leonard's Church, Edinburgh, into a 1,000-seat concert hall

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Madrid: Spanish police seize arms and 774lb of explosives and arrest 40 people in raids on terrorists

7

Boxing: Three bouts in four months for John Conteh. Foot- ball: Everton in League cup Final. Racing: Ascot prospects and a look ahead at busy week- end in England and Ireland. Motor- racing: British Grand Prix may not be televised

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Jeffery Daniels on Michael Ayton: Ned Chaffert on the fringe theatre in London: Richard Williams on Abba at the Albert Hall: Clive Barnes on David Ruddin's Ashes in New York Business News: 17-22

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Financial: Editor: Borrowing squeeze on local authorities: Bur- ton's uphill struggle: problems over deferred tax

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A limited edition in sterling silver, silver gilt and platinum.

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By MCC for presentation at the time of the Centenary Test Match at Melbourne in March.

The price of the Medalion is: Silver £22.50; Silver gilt £30.00; Platinum £37.50. The edition is strictly limited to 10,000 silver, 5,000 silver gilt and 100 platinum. Each Medalion will be supplied in a fitted case with a Certificate of Authenticity. The Medalions are obtainable only from Garrard at the address below. An illustrated leaflet will be sent on request.

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8:00am.



8:01am.



8:10am.



8:11am.

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The Volvo started first time, leaving behind a relieved photographer and a smiling spokesman from Volvo.

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92% of Volvo owners intend to remain Volvo owners when they next change their car.

And as evidence goes, we'd say that was pretty reliable. **VOLVO**

HOME NEWS

Car-loan plan for the disabled being discussed by ministers

By Robert Parker
Disabled people who drive invalid tricycles will be able to buy, convert and run small standard four-wheel production cars if a scheme being worked out by the Central Council for the Disabled and other bodies is successful.

The scheme, which has ministerial support in the Department of Health and Social Security, should please many of Britain's 21,000 tricycle drivers.

They were angered by the Government's announcement last July to phase out the tricycle (there have been many arguments about its safety) by 1981 and replace it with a weekly movable mobility allowance of £5. They say that the allowance, which started 12 months ago, is no substitute for the tricycle which, apart from petrol, is free.

The proposed scheme involves increasing the mobility allowance to about £7 a week and combining it with other concessions and tax exemptions. An essential part of the plan is the communication of the mobility allowance so that invalid car drivers could get a lump sum in advance with which to buy and modify a car.

The plan means that mobility assistance would be available not just to disabled people who drive tricycles but to many who are unable to use the allowance and associated concessions to buy whatever form of mobility or transport they find most appropriate to their circumstances.

The Department of Health and Social Security is expected to announce an increase in the mobility allowance of about two fifths next month.

Meanwhile Mr Morris, Under-Secretary of State (Disabled) at the department, is involved in talks about the concessions and communication scheme with Mr George Wil-

son, director of the Central Council for the Disabled. Treasury officials are examining some of the difficulties relating to the proposals, such as what to do if someone dies after he has been advanced money for a car but before he has repaid it.

The central council's scheme depends on setting up a fund to help disabled people to pay off the interest on a capital loan to buy a car. The repayment period would be about 7 years, the Government's estimate of the life of a tricycle. Discussions are also going on with one car manufacturer on the possibility of concessions of about 15 per cent on purchase prices. The council's allowance is to be enough to buy and run a car purchasers would also have to be exempt from the excise licence fee and value-added tax.

If the scheme is successful it will provide only for those who can drive a modified production car. Of the present 21,000 tricycle drivers, it is thought that about six thousand would still need specially produced vehicles.

The department says it is looking for a new specialised vehicle to replace the tricycle, which are produced by AC Cars and Lavacar. AC and others dispute the accident figures quoted against the tricycle and do not accept that it cannot be modified to meet new safety regulations. Disabled people who cannot, or do not want to drive a specialised vehicle or production car will still get the full mobility allowance under the plan. Mr Morris says the allowance makes for a much fairer distribution of assistance to the disabled. Under the old system the criteria for aid was ability to drive. Now it is simply disability.

In a recent interview with *The Times* Mr Morris said: "I accept that there are difficulties in the way of the mobility allowance which the mobility allowance is being improved. But I hope that the allowance will become more attractive and meet the needs of more and more disabled people."

Battle joined for voters of tourists' metropolis

By Penny Symon

As he bounded up yet another flight of stone stairs in a bleak block of council flats, Mr Peter Brooke, the Conservative candidate in the forthcoming by-election in the cities of London and Westminster, South, said with feeling: "I have a feeling I could do it all the time. It is the only chance the voters have of seeing you—democracy in action."

His enthusiasm for that side of electioneering, and for the campaign in general, comes over strongly. It is a quality necessary for a by-election because the Conservatives, who had a 57.61 majority at the last election, on a 53 per cent turnout, against the national average of almost 73 per cent, are determined to increase it tomorrow week and therefore their candidate must be kept busy.

He shakes the hand of every passer-by with gusto, and when, as is often the case, they say they do not live in the constituency, but are either working or shopping in it, Mr Brooke replies that it is never a waste to shake anyone's hand.

The constituency contains almost all of London's tourist attractions except the Tower, and the difficulty for all the candidates, after they have located the voters among the hordes of visitors, is to make them realise that the by-election, caused by the appointment of Mr Christopher Tugendhat as an EEC commissioner, is happening at all.

There is a special difficulty about not trusting any political party, but not to the usual extent. Increasingly voters are saying that they are determined to vote one way or another, but one hour's loss of the cry: "What is the point in voting at all?"

The Conservatives, who are naturally asserting that the Labour vote is coming over to them, have an affable candidate in Mr Brooke. He is 42 and chairman of a management consultancy firm.

His father, Lord Brooke of Cumnor, had his share of unpopularity when he was Home Secretary from 1952 to 1964.



Mr Peter Brooke, the Conservative by-election candidate (on the top balcony), finding out the hard way yesterday what it means to campaign among blocks of flats.

and his son says he was aware of politics when he was a schoolboy helping to address envelopes during his parents' campaigns in local government elections in London in 1948 and 1949.

"I learnt then how every vote counted, and it made a deep impact on me," he says. "I am aware of that need for every possible vote, and it accepts that now is a bad time for it to be fighting a by-election. The write have not yet been moved for by-elections pending in the Labour-held constituencies of

Birmingham, Stechford, and Ashfield, caused by other EEC appointments, and the Conservatives' need in saving their writ for Mr Tugendhat's former constituency has not left Labour in a good mood.

Mr Malcolm Noble, the party's candidate, is 30 and the head of business studies at a comprehensive school in south London. He is also chairman of Lambeth Housing Committee, and is angry at the constituency between the sea and the overcrowding, lack of amenities,

excessive rents, bad landlords, and homelessness in other areas.

Mr Angus Scrimgeour, a banker aged 32, and the Liberal candidate, smiles sardonically when it is suggested that the campaign is quiet, because his workers have spent a long time preparing detailed surveys of every street in the constituency, in the hope that perhaps the heady days of by-elections producing shock results, as at Orpington, might resurface.

The by-election has attracted a crop of fringe candidates bearing bizarre labels. The full list of candidates is as follows:

Candidates: P. Brooke (C), M. Noble (Lab), A. Scrimgeour (L), W. Boakes (Lib), D. Durrant (Lib), R. Herbert (Christ. Crown, Country, Commonwealth, Christian Const.), M. Lobb (Nat Party), P. Mitchell (Campaign for Homosexual Civil Rights), W. Thompson (Christian Outreach to Britain, Anti-Fornography), P. Kavanagh (Nat Front), General election: C. Tugendhat (C), 14,350; P. Turner (Lab), 8,589; T. Underwood (L), 4,122; D. Barker (Nat Front), 666; C. W. 5,761. Polling day: February 24.

First court order in fair trading

By a Staff Reporter

A man who installed gas-fired central heating units that leaked gas has become the first person to have a court order brought against him by the Director General of Fair Trading on the ground of persistent breaking criminal or civil law.

Mr Gordon Borrie, the director general, sought the order against Mr Jerzy Krupa, of Marlborough Road, Cardiff, after Mr Krupa had given a written assurance in April, 1975, that he would not again install central heating that did not comply with the terms of contracts with customers and which contravened the Gas Safety Regulations, 1972.

Cardiff County Court issued an order against Mr Krupa, restraining him from installing equipment in an improper or unworkmanlike manner and from contravening the gas regulations.

Mr Krupa, who was not in court, was ordered to pay costs.

BBC signs TV exchange deal with Bulgaria

Exchanges of radio and television programmes between Britain and Bulgaria were made possible yesterday by the signing of an agreement between the BBC and the Bulgarian Committee for Television and Radio.

It was signed in London by Mr Ivan Slavkov, director-general of Bulgarian Television, and Mr Ian Trechowan, managing director of BBC Television. Technical facilities for visiting television and radio crews will be made available and the exchange of radio or television specialists will also be possible.

The BBC said of the two-year agreement: "We hope it will lead to greater freedom of action for our reporters and camera crews visiting Bulgaria."

Banned driver was drugged

Ronald Ingham, aged 27, of Broadwell Avenue, Lagenham, Essex, was jailed for a year yesterday after admitting having drugs, driving while disqualified and driving under the influence of drugs. He was banned from driving for five years, but cleared of conspiring to supply cannabis.

Mr Richard Hawkins, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court that Mr Ingham had earlier been disqualified from driving. Police officers saw him driving and after being arrested he was found to be drugged.

Examination plan opposed

The National Union of Teachers will fight any government attempt to reintroduce the school certificate examination, Mr Alfred Wiltshire, its president, said last night.

He told teachers at Bude, Cornwall, that he was disturbed by a proposal in a Department of Education and Science background paper for an examination requiring children to achieve a minimum standard in several subjects.

Electricity night tariffs may fall

By Roger Vislivo

A reduction of between 4 per cent and 5 per cent in the night tariffs for electricity has been proposed by the area supply boards in England and Wales in new submissions to the Price Commission.

Efforts to make electric storage-heating more competitive come at a time when the British Gas Corporation is planning a rise of a tenth in its prices from April 1, and after a long controversy over the rapid rise in off-peak rates since 1972.

While the off-peak night rates are likely to fall, the area boards have applied for increases in general daytime tariffs averaging 4 per cent to 5 per cent. There will, however, be no increase in the rates, which may be 2.5 per cent above and below the average figures.

About half a million consumers use the night-rate tariffs and 1,250,000 are on electricity contracts involving night rates, together with a boost for their appliances during the daytime. Tariffs for such consumers are likely to remain unchanged.

The supply boards are able to offer the more attractive storage-heating tariffs as a result of changes in the Central Electricity Generating Board's bulk supply tariff under which they buy electricity from the national grid.

The CEB's large modern power stations have to go through the expensive process of closing at night or working at reduced capacity because there is insufficient off-peak load.

Frederick Banner, the CEB member responsible for finance, said yesterday that he hoped the new off-peak rates would prevent the industry

from losing any of its night-time customers.

Overall, the bulk supply tariff will rise by about 11 per cent during 1977-78. The increase has been approved by the Price Commission and by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

Of the 11 per cent about 8 per cent is accounted for by expected increases in the cost of coal during the coming financial year. The other 3 per cent covers the CEB's increased operating costs not related to its fuel bill.

The 8 per cent increase in the CEB's fuel bill arises from the likelihood of a 15 per cent rise in the pitched price of coal later in the spring. Any further increase by the National Coal Board to accommodate the cost of early retirement for miners would produce an additional rise in electricity prices.

Mr John Flanagan, the region's service manager, said that natural gas in the normal town mains was at about twice the pressure—formerly used to distribute manufactured gas. "But these pressures are very low in relation to the ability of a steel or cast-iron pipe to withstand them," he added.

British Gas had been waging an extensive campaign to make all consumers more safety-conscious, but it was a very difficult task. Mr Flanagan said that whenever British Gas detected unsafe appliances it was turned off, and a label offering to provide a quotation for remedial work was attached.

"Unfortunately there have been fatalities arising directly from the ignoring of such warnings," he said.

Birth rate at record low level

By a Staff Reporter

The birth rate for England and Wales fell last year for the twelfth consecutive year to a record low level. Figures released yesterday by the Office of Population, Census and Statistics show that the birth rate was 11.9 a thousand of the population.

The lowest previous figure recorded, excluding the war years and the present decline, was 14 in 1932. The OPCS said that "relating the number of births to the number of women of child-bearing age in the population, the estimated general fertility rate for 1976, at about 60 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44, was about the same level as the 1930s".

Births fell by 3 per cent from 603,000 in 1975 to an estimated 585,000 in 1976. This is the smallest decline for five years.

The decline, taken in conjunction with an increase in annual deaths from 585,000 to 598,000, led to an overall population decrease of 13,000.

London attracts 7,500,000 foreign visitors

By Patricia Tisdall

London continues to be the most popular centre for overseas visitors to Britain. An estimate by the British Tourist Authority published yesterday shows that 7,500,000 foreign visitors or three quarters of the total who came to Britain in 1976 spent one night or more in the capital, an increase of more than 13 per cent on 1975.

The proportion of overseas visitors who combined a visit to London with a stay of one night or longer elsewhere also increased.

Shopping, accounted for as much as 48 per cent of overseas visitors' spending. The most popular purchases were clothing and textiles, china, glass and silverware, cutlery and leather goods. But 73 per cent of summer visitors and 57 per cent of autumn visitors said the main purpose of their visit was for a holiday and sightseeing and only 1 per cent said they had come specifically for shopping.

The survey shows an increasing tendency for visitors to return to London. About half of all summer visitors to London in 1976 had never visited the city before, a drop from more than 60 per cent in 1975.

Four-fifths of visitors to London made their own travel and accommodation arrangements. A fifth of the summer visitors and slightly fewer of those in the autumn came on package tours.

Older people, those on a first visit to London and visitors from North America or certain European countries, such as Italy and Spain, are more likely to use package tours.

Surveyed visitors to London in summer and autumn, 1976 (British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF, EN).

Mr Simon Smith, for the prosecution, said that when the market dropped, Mr Reynolds began "raiding" clients' accounts. Seventeen deposits were taken on one house.

Minimum award for crime victims raised

By Our Crime Correspondent

The minimum compensation to victims of violent crime has been raised from £50 to £150 to restore the original value of the award without changing the scope or purpose of the scheme, Mr Rees, home secretary, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

Inflation, he said, had made the £50 limit which was established in 1964, too low to exclude trivial cases.

A new "rule of thumb" scale has been drawn up by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

An undisplaced, nasal fracture or, as one official described it, a rugby-type bloody nose, will now be assessed at £200; a fractured nose needing a strengthening operation at £300; a fractured jaw requiring wiring at £450; a stab wound in the chest requiring surgery and leaving a scar at £650; rape, with no physical or psychological repercussions at £1,000; and loss of sight of an eye at £5,000.

Injuries that before the new ruling would have been considered minor and will now be included except in certain circumstances are: wrenched wrist and arm and slight graving, which would have qualified for £50 compensation; bruising to both arms and neck, £75; human bite on neck more than 15.4 cm; £100; and facial bruising, with sub-conjunctival haemorrhage to eye with two weeks' absence from duty, £125.

The last four examples are taken from actual cases decided under the 1964 scale.

In the year ended March 31 last, the board received 16,650 applications for compensation and paid more than £5.4m to 11,500 people. By the end of next month the board expects to have received about 20,000 applications.

Compensation is assessed on the basis of common law damages which normally include compensation for pain and suffering and loss of earnings.

Pledge to report any Tory club racialism

By Michael Horsnell

Any evidence of racial discrimination in Conservative social clubs will be reported to the new Commission for Racial Equality by the Association of Conservative Clubs, which represents 1,200 of them, Sir Donald Kaberry, the association's chairman, announced yesterday.

Sir Donald, MP for Leeds, North-west, made the announcement after *The Times* had reported yesterday that evidence of discrimination in several clubs in London and the Midlands, collared by staff at Conservative Central Office,

is to be forwarded to Lord Thomson, the party chairman. Sir Donald added that he has not yet received any evidence.

He said: "We asked the Young Conservatives last October to give evidence of their allegations of racial discrimination 'in a significant number of Conservative clubs'. I have never received it and I am still waiting to get the evidence."

"In any case, where it can properly be proved that any kind of racial discrimination has taken place with regard to membership of any club,

Parole for another woman is likely

By Olive Borrell

Hilary Creek, one of the Angry Brigade bombing conspirators, is likely to be freed from Holloway prison next month. Her application for parole, the third she has made in three years, is before the Parole Board.

Like Miss Anna Mendleson, aged 28, who was convicted at the same trial at the Central Criminal Court, and released four months ago, Miss Creek, aged 27, is "ready to return to society" after serving half of her 10-year sentence, prison and social work, she says.

Both women were students at Essex University and became involved in Angry Brigade activities when the Conservative Government introduced the Industrial Relations Act. Several bombs, which badly damaged property, were planted by the group, but no one was injured.

John Barker and James Greenfield, both Cambridge University students, who were convicted with them for their part in the conspiracy, are still serving 10-year sentences. Their applications for parole are being considered.

'The Times' read by most MPs, top civil servants

More MPs and senior civil servants read *The Times* than any other quality daily newspaper, according to an independent readership survey by Barker and Opinion Research International.

The survey, which was carried out for a group of industrialists interested in means of communicating with government, shows that *The Times* is read by 89 per cent of Labour MPs, 81 per cent of all MPs, and 85 per cent of all MPs. The figures for *The Daily Telegraph* were respectively 72 per cent, 68 per cent and 72 per cent; for *The Guardian* 74 per cent and 26 per cent and 59 per cent; and for the *Financial Times* 42 per cent, 32 per cent and 37 per cent.

The Times was read by 82 per cent of senior civil servants, compared with 48 per cent for the *Financial Times*, 25 per cent for *The Guardian* and 21 per cent for *The Daily Telegraph*.

Court challenge to tribunal's ruling on benefit

A case to decide whether a man laid off because of a dispute is entitled to unemployment benefit has opened at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

The action, by Mr James Watt, of Craig Avenue, Edinburgh, against the Lord Advocate and Mr Douglas Reith, QC, a national insurance commissioner, raises the issue of whether the courts have jurisdiction to overrule decisions by statutory tribunals.

Mr Watt's argument seeks a decision setting aside a ruling from the commissioner that he was disqualified from receiving unemployment benefit for more than three months during an unofficial strike at Dumbarton Machine, Dumbarton, in 1974.

appropriate action will be taken to report such a club, whether it be a member club of this association or any club, Labour, Liberal or non-political.

"It is a civil, or probably now a criminal, offence under the Race Relations Act, and the appropriate action of a disciplinary committee will immediately be informed so that it can consider instituting proceedings."

Mr Gordon Waterman, secretary of the association, said there would be no response to the allegations of discrimination forwarded to Lord Thomson, until the association had seen them.

Student's refusal to join a union was not misconduct

From Our Correspondent

Christopher Eley, a fourth year BA (Hons) student at Sheffield Polytechnic, who was dismissed by the city council in July last year because he refused to join a union, succeeded in an appeal against refusal of unemployment benefit.

A national insurance tribunal was told that Mr Eley, aged 27, whose sandwich course was due to end less than a month after he was dismissed, was refused benefit on the ground that he had lost his job through misconduct.

Mr George Swann, chairman of the tribunal, said the proceedings were a formality. He pointed out that in a case considered by the chief insurance commissioner, it had been held that in declining to join a union a claimant was not guilty of misconduct, nor had he left his employment voluntarily.

"Therefore the insurance officer no longer contends that the claimant lost his employment through misconduct and wishes to support his appeal in this case," Mr Swann said.

There was no industrial misconduct without some element of culpability and there was no culpability in refusing to join a union.

Another member of the tribunal, Mr Ronald Windle, secretary of a National Union of Mineworkers branch dissented.

No rebuke for NEDO chief

From Our Correspondent

In Parliament yesterday Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative MP for Westminster, Sir Marjorie, asked the Prime Minister to speak to Sir Ronald. Mr Baker said NEDO employees were not civil servants and Mr Callaghan should condemn threats made to employees because of statements contrary to government policy.

Mr Callaghan said on Monday night that Sir Ronald had told him the views he was expressing might be incompatible with his job as man power and industrial relations director of the NEDO office.

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University says strike facts were distorted

Birmingham University accused the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs yesterday of misrepresentation in the case it has put to trades councils for support over a strike by technicians at the university.

The university said the union had presented the opposite of the truth by suggesting that the university had rejected proposals for a settlement by the Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service (ACAS).

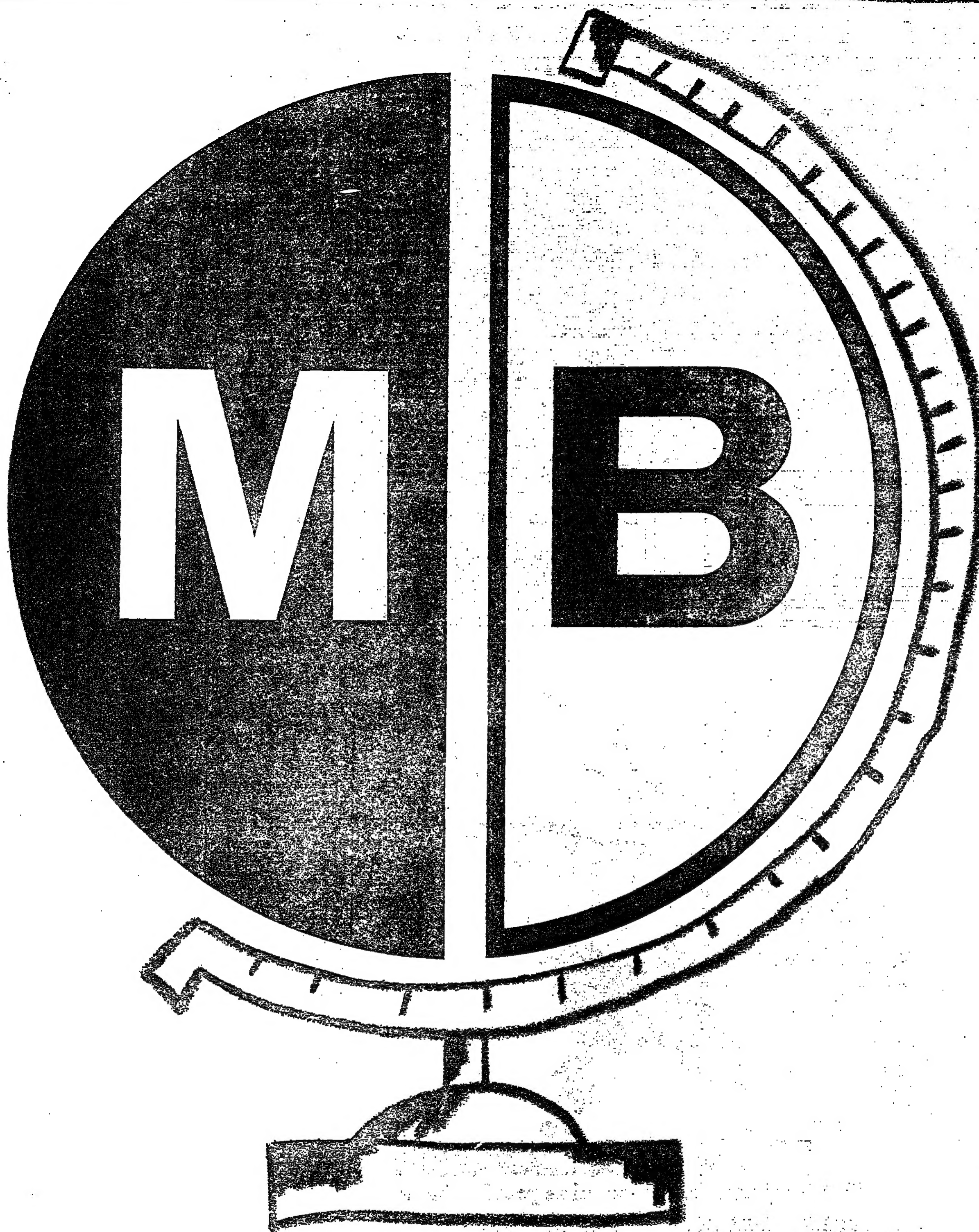
It was the ASTMS that had repeatedly rejected the university's suggestion of returning the dispute through ACAS to an independent arbitrator.

The university based its accusation on letters received from the union about the 22-week strike which is over interpretation of a holiday agreement.

Two defendants at Stafford Crown Court each challenged seven jurors, all men, yesterday after protesting that not enough women were being sworn.

After nine men and two women had been sworn, the court ran out of jurors. The hearing had to be adjourned until today for a final juror.

More home news. Pages 11 & 16



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HOME NEWS

BBC figures show how increasing cost consciousness has kept tight rein on programme makers

By Kenneth Gosling

It costs twice as much to present a 50-minute drama production on film as it does in the studio; two thirds of all programmes networked by the BBC cost less than £10,000, and the overall cost an hour of television since BBC2 was introduced in 1964 has dropped from £4,487 to £4,232.

Those are some of the conclusions that emerge from an examination of the facts and figures connected with the operation of BBC television during the year 1975-76. They demonstrate that, far from being the extravagant organisation that some people maintain, the BBC is becoming increasingly cost-conscious.

A detailed analysis of all the finance, staff and resources involved in presenting a two-channel television service appears in BBC figures which I am able to reveal exclusively today. They are normally available only to top executives and heads of departments and will shortly be published to the unions with members engaged in broadcasting.

They show, for example, that since the introduction of BBC2 in 1964 the staff required to operate BBC television has risen from 12,400 to 15,300, the latter figure representing a slight drop over 1974-75. The hours of output over the same

period went up from 7,500 to 10,300.

An analysis of network programmes shows that drama accounted for the largest number of programmes with expenditure of more than £40,000, 134 in total. Only five children's programmes cost more than £30,000, and most were made for under £5,000. In light entertainment, most programmes (276) cost between £10,000 and £20,000. The high-priced "block-busters" were regarded as economical not only because of their repeat prospects but for their selling potential abroad.

Co-production with other organisations still accounts for only 1.4 per cent of operating expenditure, although expenditure itself has risen to £67.5m in 1975-76. Co-production policy is that the level of contributions shall not exceed 25 per cent of the total operating expenditure.

In the field of individual programme costs, those totalling a budget of £40,000 or more included in current affairs the EEC referendum results, the Apollo-Soyuz space flight, the three party conference, and the TUC conference.

In the same group, under outside broadcasts, came the FA Cup Final, the All-Bugger fight, Wimbledon tennis, the

OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Permanent staff	March 31	1976	Expenditure
No	%	%	%
Programme costs	7,834	50	67.2
Gen & admin	637	4	6.7
News	8,461	54	92.9
Local prog	512	4	3.8
English prog	570	4	3.1
Scotland	543	4	3.8
Wales	282	2	1.8
N. Ireland	2,108	14	12.5
Open Univ	352	2	3.2
Total prog costs	10,221	70	108.8
Transmission & dist	538	2	5.2

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES ANALYSED BY TOTAL COST BUDGET			
Under £5,000	£5,001 to £10,000	£10,001 to £20,000	Over £20,000
24	46	276	108
Light entertainment	42	42	105
Drama	264	510	49
Current affairs	62	135	96
Outside broadcasts	137	129	147
Features/musical/documentaries	386	36	7
Children's programmes	54	115	—
Religion	71	342	—
Schools, further ed	233	33	11
Others	1,454	1,455	758
Net reg and gnl	440	132	188
net product centres	1,884	1,888	585
Percentage	66	17	9

Britain loses torture case argument

From a Staff Reporter Belfast

The Irish Government has won a victory over Britain after the first round of hearings by the European Court of Human Rights into allegations that suspected IRA men were tortured by troops and police in 1971.

An interim ruling on behalf of the 18 international judges in Strasbourg yesterday rejected the British argument that the court should refrain from passing judgment on the untested parts of the Irish case. It also stated that the court had jurisdiction over more than 200 cases of alleged brutality which Britain had hoped would not go to further proceedings.

The ruling, after two days of private discussions between the judges, disappointed the leading British lawyers and officials involved. It leaves the way open for Ireland to press its strenuous attempts to persuade the court to order the prosecution of members of the security forces.

The three key sections which the British did not contest concerned breaches of article three of the Convention on Human Rights relating to torture and inhuman treatment. They covered the use of five sensory deprivation methods as well as a general practice of ill-treatment carried out in Holywood barracks, Belfast, in 1971.

Britain had been found guilty by the European Commission of Human Rights on those points. But the delegation, led by Mr Shikin, the Attorney General, had hoped that by not contesting them and by promising to outlaw the techniques they could persuade the court to shelve that part of the case.

After the European court's ruling the next session of the torture hearing begins on April 19.

Judges appointed: An early move to establish a second anti-terrorism court in Dublin is expected from the Irish Government (the *Irish Association Reports*). Mr Justice James McMahon and Mr Justice Thomas Doyle were yesterday appointed to the Special Criminal Court, bringing the panel to nine, a figure that would make possible a rota system and enable two courts to sit simultaneously.

Duke's visit: Amid strict security the Duke of Gloucester started a two-day visit to Northern Ireland yesterday. He had several private meetings.

He is in Ulster in his capacity as Grand Prior of the Order of St John and will invest the Duke of Westminster as Knight Commander of the Commandery of Ards at a ceremony at Hillsborough Castle, Co Down, today.

Information sought: The United States Government on Monday sought to force the American-based Irish Northern Aid Committee to be more explicit about its objectives; where it gets its money, and how it spends it (Reuters reports from Washington).

Brutality allegations embarrass Dublin Government

Woman says police beat her after bottle had been thrown at their

From Christopher Walker Belfast

The *Irish Times* is noted for thoroughness and belief in accuracy. For that reason the detailed claims about police brutality that it has been publishing this week are credible and attracted immediate international attention.

The embarrassment caused to the Dublin Government and demands for an independent inquiry have centred largely on the detailed case histories printed in the paper. Some of them are similar to accusations made by the same paper against British policemen later in 1971 and later taken further by the British press.

In most cases *The Irish Times* has not printed the names of the alleged victims because court proceedings are being considered. But a team of the paper's senior reporters, including a former Northern Ireland editor, has checked them over six weeks.

One woman living in Dublin said she was beaten by members of the Garda Síochána last month when she was four months pregnant. Soon after a young man had been arrested at her flat and a milk bottle had been thrown at the police car there was a knock.

"On opening the door no words were spoken. One Garda wearing a brown jacket grabbed me by the hair, swung me round the hall and punched me several times in the stomach," she said.

"Two other Gardai grabbed both my arms, pushing them to my sides and one of my body. They then bent me forward and several times punched me round the back of the head. One Garda shouted into my face that I had thrown a milk bottle out of the window. He spat in my face."

Several of the case histories describe the use of some of the five sensory deprivation techniques that the European Commission of Human Rights has denounced as torture.

The paper maintains that they have been used with greater regularity since last October, when emergency legislation increased the period for detaining suspects from two days to seven days.

The most disturbing account concerns four Tipperary men held in a Garda station in Cahir earlier this month. They said their ill treatment began when detectives from Dublin, members of the so-called "heavy gang", arrived to take over their interrogation.

According to *The Irish Times* the men said they were punched, kicked and pulled by the hair. They were deprived of sleep and lost track of time by being kept in rooms with the blinds drawn and electric lights on day and night. One said that the Gardai told him: "We will break you mentally and physically on the seventh hour of the seventh day; that's when they all break."

One of the men, M. Connors, attempted jumping through a rather than sign for men. "This dramatic incident was essentially incidental to the way in which the Garda had treated him," corroborated by the of the other three paper said.

A Dublin man in 1975 in connection armed robbery case treatment at a Garda station in the centre of the about 3.30 in the morning the worst beating of been left in the room guard and suddenly was flung open and rushed in," he said.

"They surrounded me together began kicking me, main head. This did not long, probably not a about four minutes, I very severe. I stopped there was over the place and it wipe it off the floor with a cloth. They same cloth to wipe it."

The suspect was after the 48-hour detention period. He days in hospital and court action against. His case is one of 25 about allegations of all held up by the Irish judicial system.

Driver cleared because test was random

Harold Gregson, aged 42, a driving instructor, had 166 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, just over twice the legal limit, when he was stopped by a police car. But a jury at Bristol Crown Court yesterday decided he was stopped in a random check, and acquitted him.

Judge Wovden, QC, said: "We hear talk about a police state. We seem to be getting rather near it in the Westonsuper-Mare area."

Mr Gregson, of Glen Mansions, Langport Road, Weston, was stopped by Police Constable Michael Leppard, who agreed that he was more concerned about whether Mr Gregson's car had been stolen than whether he had been drinking.

The judge said Parliament never intended a policeman to stop a motorist unless he had good cause to think he had been drinking. He had no right to stop him just to find out.

Court will rule on student's benefit

By Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent

Referred judgment will be given today in the Court of Appeal on a case potentially affecting the right of students to claim supplementary benefit during the Christmas and Easter vacations.

But the Government has succeeded in passing a clause that would give legal backing to the practice being challenged in the court case.

Mr Robin Atkinson, aged 21, a former law student at Newcastle Polytechnic, appealed against the decision to award him less than the full amount of supplementary benefit because it was assumed that he received a vacation element in his grant. He argued that his benefit should not have been reduced, because his parents did not pay their share.

Even if judgment is given in his favour Mr Atkinson's case is unlikely to affect any other students. The Government succeeded in restoring its clause on students' benefits to the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill on Monday night, and the Bill is expected to become law before the Easter vacation. Students who were refused benefits, or awarded reduced benefits during the Christmas and Easter vacations, are exceptional circumstances. The clause on students' benefits makes mandatory discretionary practice Supplementary Benefit mission in dealing with claims. Although the firm figures on his students will be 170,000 were awarded during the 1975 vacation.

Claims from single holders students have fuses since last because their grants than a vacation of £11.35, the same notional supplements entitlement. That which will become the Bill, is opposed National Union of St cause more than sev out of 10 do not pay contribution, according survey by the Dept Education and Science.

The commission's parents who do not contribute in cash kind. It is conce parents might sto altogether if the ar automatically made benefits.

Ploughing 'threatens m archaeological sites'

By a Special Correspondent

In one English county alone nearly two fifths of a large sample of archaeological sites are being destroyed by ploughing. The scale of the threat to the buried past in Sussex was disclosed at a conference in Salisbury of the general public, more than 70 archaeologists and farmers.

After a recent survey carried out by Sussex Archaeological Field Unit Mr Peter Drewett concluded that of 660 sites visited "39 per cent were being actively destroyed by ploughing".

Although about a fifth of the sites covered by protective legislation were being ploughed, Mr Drewett said that more than 250 known sites were suffering plough damage, and these represented only a fraction of sites yet to be discovered.

Commenting on a more detailed survey of specific earthworks, Mr Drewett said: "The ploughing of earthworks results in their consistent, and then final, total obliteration. It is little doubt that earthworks must be priority in terms of preservation and rescue excavation sources."

A group of Wesssex gists said too little was being paid to the ploughing on sites, cases even the monument are being scheduled Ancient Monuments still being denuded by being activity and only physically impressive monuments are being preserved.

They suggested the than confine large are ductive land to grass, methods of should be encouraged.

The conference was the Department of the meat was considering to schedule all unploughed sites. A prepared by the dept could result in infection other types of land, heath and woodland, in need protection.

Recruiting 'up to target'

Although the number of recruits to the Armed Forces between October and December last year was more than a thousand below the same period in 1975, the Ministry of Defence says recruiting is in line with the targets.

Only the Royal Air Force took on more between Oct and Dec 1976, than period in 1975, 1,378. The Royal Navy took people in the 1976 (2,028 in 1975); the Marines 161 (279 in 1975); the Army 3,752 (5,082 in 1975).

Doctor voices concern over discovery of 'new' sexually-transmitted disease

Doctors at the Middlesex Hospital, London, have discovered a form of sexually-transmitted disease that is becoming common among homosexuals and has been found in heterosexuals.

The disease is hepatitis B, a virus infection that can lead to jaundice and in some cases chronic liver failure.

Doctors have found that some men who become chronic carriers of the infection, harbouring it for years, can pass it by sexual intercourse.

The chronic carriers suffer no symptoms, but they can remain infectious for years. Dr Duncan Catterall, director of the department of genito urinary medicine at the hospital, said yesterday: "You could say this is the most serious sexually-transmitted disease I have said after describing his research to a conference at the Royal College of Physicians."

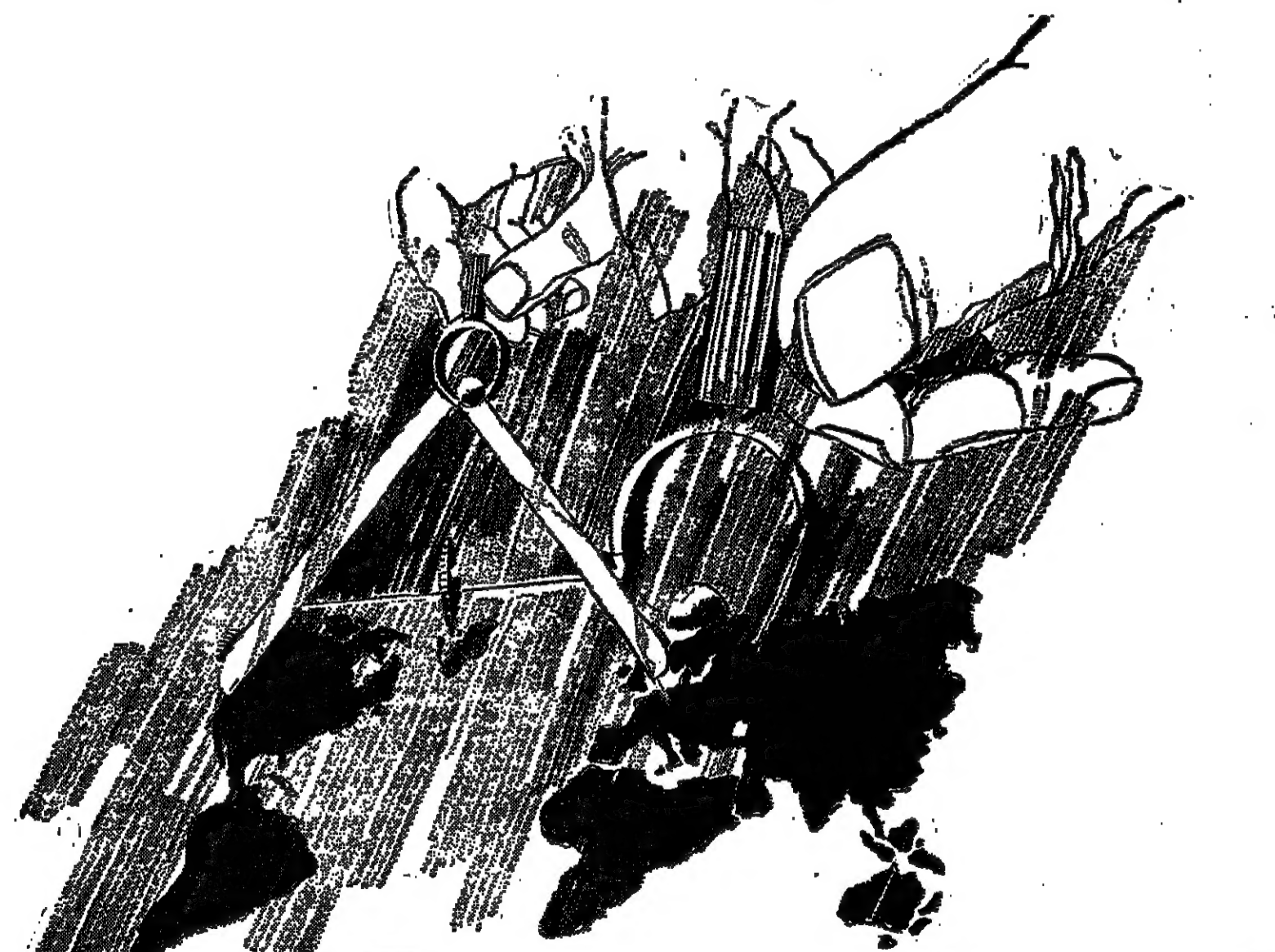
"Sexual transmission is now probably the most important source of the disease," he said.

A survey in venereal disease clinics showed that people attending had a tenfold greater incidence of the virus in their blood than the general population. Dr Catterall said he suspected homosexuals were at greater risk because they tended to have more casual sexual relations, thus increasing the chances of infection.

Syphilis and gonorrhoea could be cured but hepatitis B virus could not be rid of the virus until it went of its own accord, he said. The only course for chronic carriers was abstinence, but that could result in infection for five years or sibly longer."

At a central London disease clinic where 2 per cent of patients were homosexual between and a quarter would be to get hepatitis at son. Fewer than half of infected would develop jaundice but liver failure result in a small number cases.

Two of about thirty known to the Middlesex tal have infected three each, but there is no yet that women are men. Dr Catterall said: "It is a possibility that become more comm heterosexual men."



International WestLB is just as international as your business

As you've probably noticed, most banks claim to be international. But one of the important questions you should ask yourself before choosing your international banking partner is: "How international does my bank have to be?"

It's not just a matter of a few more branches or representative offices here and there, or of an extra few hundred correspondents. It's international experience in the right fields at the right places that counts. WestLB has a great deal of it.

After all, it's the Banker of many of Germany's world-renowned Ruhr industries. In this bustling region, WestLB has grown into one of Europe's largest banks and it ranks among the top twenty in the world. Its experience in export and import financing is the solid cornerstone of its world-wide capacity.

In addition to this traditional international trade financing, WestLB's extensive sources of funds have made it a major force in the international issue business, Eurocurrency credits and project financing. A balance sheet total of close on DM 64,000 million reflects the financial capacity of the Bank. Backed by the State and the regional Sparkassen organization, it encompasses more than 200 regional universal banks (Sparkassen) with their own combined balance sheet total of close on DM 97 thousand million.

The rapidly expanding international requirements of WestLB's customers have spawned a world-wide network of offices, subsidiaries, participations and correspondents, as well as membership in the illustrious Orion Banking Group.

Each of these international points of contact—staffed by experienced bankers—provides access to WestLB's universal banking know-how and highly developed specialized facilities.

Thus, for instance, WestLB through its London Branch and WestLB International in Luxembourg concentrates on Euro-finance to first-class risks. With Libra Bank Ltd, providing finance in Latin America. In other financial centres such as New York, Beirut and Tokyo, WestLB is represented by highly versed staff members.

But these are just a few examples of WestLB's international capacity. In fact, if it's a question of international presence, WestLB can serve you wherever it matters; directly or in partnership with others.

However, WestLB's world-wide activity is only one reason for considering it as your banking partner. There are other very important questions you must ask yourself before making a final choice. "Is the bank absolutely secure?" "Does it have the necessary experience?" "Is it efficient?" Get the full answers to these questions and find out about our specialized services; contact us directly or ask your local bankers to put you in touch with us.

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By David
n, Feb 15

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M Barre paints bleak
picture of France's
economic predicament

From Charles Hargrove
Bordeaux, Feb 15

M Raymond Barre, the
French Prime Minister, today
warned the country that the
unemployment situation would
get worse before it improved.
He was addressing a meeting
of the regional assembly of
Aquitaine held at Montde-
larsau, a town in the Landes,
instead of at Bordeaux.

The Socialist members
turned up for the occasion, but
not the Communists, who have
not set in regional assemblies
since their creation in 1972.

M Barre painted an un-
varnished picture of the eco-
nomic situation. "I am not here
on an electoral tour," he said.
"I have come as Prime Minister
to make contact with a region
of France and study its prob-
lems."

"I shall not make promises I
cannot keep. When you ask me
to increase state aid for this or
that project, I will not say, I
cannot do it, but I have to look
at problems in a national con-
text."

Beyond the short-term prob-
lems of prices and the trade
balance, there were other struc-
tural ones. The first was the
reorganization of certain indus-
trial sectors, like steel, ship-
building, aircraft construction,
textiles, and paper, by June,
the Government would
announce its decisions on them.
"Why not tell the truth?" he
said. "We have to face reality.
There will be a difficult phase
for employment. Some branches

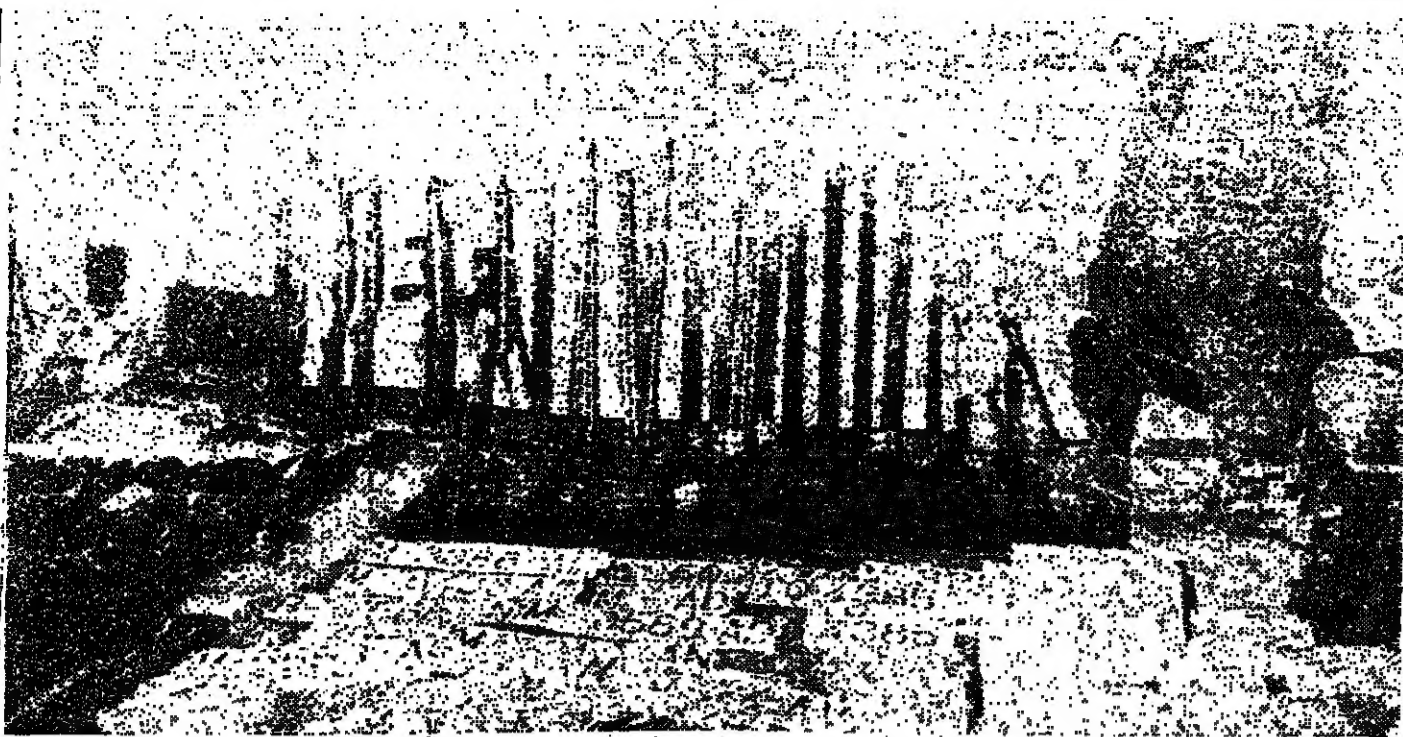
of industry can survive only if
their manpower is trimmed.
They have recruited excessively
and paid excessively high
wages.

Then there are the national-
ized industries whose deficit
cost the taxpayer 12,000m
francs (£1,430m) last year, and
finally the hole in the budget
of the social security system,
which in 1977, is estimated at
12,000m francs.

With these problems to solve,
the margin of manoeuvre for
the Government was very nar-
row. The improvement of
regional conditions was linked
to the health of the national
economy. "We have to take an
overall view of things," he said.
"All regional questions have to
be followed through. Since I
have taken office, I have noted
a certain discontinuity in the
handling of them, due to the
weight of the administrative
machine."

Introducing the three-hour
meeting of the regional assem-
bly, its chairman, M Jacques
Chaban-Delmas, former Prime
Minister and mayor of Bor-
deaux, said that in the past 20
years, the region had tried to
emerge from underdevelopment.
In the past seven years, he
said, its active population had
fallen. Its unemployment rate
was higher than the national
average and its production
lower.

The drift from the land was
alarming. "Aquitaine takes no
favours of the Government,"
he said. "It demands equality
of opportunity."



Police in Madrid display weapons, money, false licence plates and military uniforms seized in raids

Police find
Grapo
arms cache

Madrid, Feb 15. — Spanish
police said today that they had
solved the murders of five
police officers last year as a result
of arrests in the past week of
40 alleged members of the
extreme left-wing First of
October Anti-Fascist Groups
(Grapo) in connexion with

kidnapping of two senior
officials.

The police said that they had
also solved a series of bombings
and the disappearance of arms
and explosives from military
arsenals. Arms and 774 lb of
explosives had been found in
raids on suspected Grapo
members.

Freed from their kidnappers
in police raids last Friday were
Lieutenant-General Emilio
Villacueva, president of the
Supreme Council of Military
Justice, and Señor Antonio
Maria de Arlot, president of
the Council of State.

The Government today lifted

a bag of news about the kid-
nappings, but continued to ban
reports about police inquiries
into possible extreme right-wing
links with recent political
violence. This applied to
inquiries into the murder of
four Communist lawyers and a
January 24.

While Grapo is blamed for
the kidnappings, an extreme
right-wing group called AAA
(Anti-Communist Apostolic
Alliance) has claimed responsi-
bility for the murder of the
five communists, as well as of
a 19-year-old student shot during
a left-wing demonstration in
Madrid on January 23.

Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa,
the Minister of the Interior, has
promised to get to the bottom
of the violence and arrest those
responsible, no matter who they
are.

Señor Suárez, the Prime
Minister, last night concluded
negotiations with representa-
tives of opposition parties on
conditions for the general elec-
tion in the spring.

Applications to register from
political parties continued to
flow into the Interior Ministry.
The application of the Com-
munist Party is expected to be
subject to a ruling by the
Supreme Court.

Austria jails
hijacker
but refuses
extradition

Vienna, Feb 15. — A Pole,
aged 20, who hijacked an air-
liner with a dummy grenade
made of bread, a safety razor
handle and toothpaste tube,
was jailed for four years today.

A Vienna court found Andrzej
Karaszinski guilty of air piracy,
but said he would not be ex-
tradited to Poland unless it was
found that he was wanted there
for other crimes.

Mr Karaszinski hijacked a
Polish Airlines Tupolev 134 on
a flight from Copenhagen to
Warsaw on November 18, last
and forced the pilot to fly to
Vienna. The aircraft, carrying
29 passengers, landed with only
a few litres of fuel in its tanks.
Poland asked for his extradition
immediately after he sur-
rendered to police at Vienna.

He was the first person to be
convicted under a two-year-old
Austrian law making hijacking
a specific crime punishable by
up to five years in prison.

Mr Karaszinski was put on
board the aircraft as an undesir-
able alien after being convicted
of theft and forgery. Polish
newspapers criticized the
Danish authorities for failing to
inform Warsaw in advance.

Man bitten by pets
dies from rabies

Aarau, Switzerland, Feb 15. —
A 35-year-old man who was
bitten by a cat and a dog last
year died from rabies in
hospital at Baden.

Portugal to file EEC
application in March

Mortimer
will apply formally
ship of the Euro-
community next month,
Mario Soares, the
ster, has completed
the nine member

announced this at
ference before leav-
for Dublin yester-
a clearly extremely
h the warm recep-
ceived from the
ment and the
Portugal's applica-
by Mr Callaghan
in his honour on
ht.

application will go
Commission for its
Soares said. Only
ould the Council of
be a decision on the
Portuguese mem-
loped this decision
eached by the end
or, at latest, early
so that detailed
uld get started.
ut that, under exist-

ing agreements, Portugal should
be ready by 1985 to integrate
its economy with that of the
EEC countries "at least in its
industrial aspects". Dr Soares
said he hoped Portugal would
be recognized as a member of
the Community well before that
date.

There would be economic
advantages for the Community
in having Portugal as a mem-
ber. Dr Soares said. It would
bring access to the Portuguese
market, mineral resources and
fishing zone, which, with the
new 200-mile limit, was par-
ticularly important. Portugal
would also be a link with Por-
tuguese-speaking countries in
Africa and South America.

Dr Soares spoke warmly of
Mr Callaghan as "a good old
friend who is also a comrade
in good and bad times", refer-
ring to the support Mr Calla-
ghan had given him both
against the Caetano dictatorship
and later against the threat of
a communist takeover.

Leading article, page 15

ince holds
t
s base

Correspondent
15

Vance, the Ameri-
can of State, spent
hours at the Ameri-
air base in the
s morning talking
al Galvao de Figue-
tugal's Minister in
representing Portu-
the regional Govern-
ident Dr Joao Mate-
e communiqué was
r the meeting.

aman of the Portu-
gn Ministry denied
any formal discus-
America renewing
ent under which it
base.

egically located base
s Island covers the
ic routes and was
Britain during the
ld War. The original
with the United
signed in January,
s terminated in Feb-
'4, since when the
have been using it
oc basis.

nce in Israel, page 9

Norway-Russia
fisheries
talks in doubt

From Our Correspondent
Oslo, Feb 15

It seems likely that there
may be more serious con-
sequences at the end of the
Soviet espionage activities
in Norway which led to the
expulsion of six Russians, in-
cluding a diplomat, caught
while meeting his Norwegian
contact and to Soviet retali-
ation in expelling two Norwe-
gian diplomats.

Norway is in the middle of
negotiations with the Soviet
Union about the delimitation
of fisheries zones in the
Barents Sea as well as about
the delimitation of the con-
tinental shelf in the same area.

No date has so far been
fixed for the next round of the
fisheries negotiations despite a
Norwegian offer to send rep-
resentatives to Moscow at any
time suitable for the Russians.
According to explanations in
Moscow Mr Ishkov, the Soviet
Minister of Fisheries, is ill, but
this did not prevent him from
taking part in talks in Brussels
yesterday.

nan doctors continue
against pay curbs

Own Correspondent
15

German doctors and
minuted their protest
overment plans to
va health costs by
a one-day strike in
thurg area of Lower
day.

associations reported
mplete support from
actioners in the dis-
protest began with a
rike in Hanover last
expanded emergency
at with critical cases.
work has been com-
the draft of a Bill
containing the high
medical treatment. The

Cabinet is expected to endorse
it tomorrow. It is designed to
discourage over-prescribing and
overlong stays in hospital and
to relax doctors' pay to gen-
eral economic developments.

One of the main doctors' or-
ganizations has suggested an
average annual in-
come of DM 180,000 (£45,000).
This was "at least DM 40,000
too high", a spokesman said.
Other sources place the average
annual income of doctors
at between DM 170,000 and DM
240,000.

in flights to
a renewed

Feb 15. — Britain
teved flights of RAF
bombers to Malta,
d after complaints
e flying. The Maltese
ent announced that the
ufes had agreed to do
a possible to prevent
as the Vulcans land at
field.

expressed regrets
cent incident to which
n flew over Zabbar
No Vulcans are based
but several land at
ort. — Reuter.

Seven held after
police raids

Rome, Feb 15. — Police raided
an apartment here today and
arrested Renato Vallanzasca,
aged 28, who is wanted for
questioning about seven police
murders and a 22m kidnapping.
Within hours they had also
arrested four men and two
women believed to be his
associates.

Signor Vallanzasca has been
sought in connexion with neo-
fascist guerrillas and the
murder of a judge investigating
links between Italian kid-
napping gangs and extreme-
right political groups. — Reuter

Who says that British Industry isn't investing in progress?



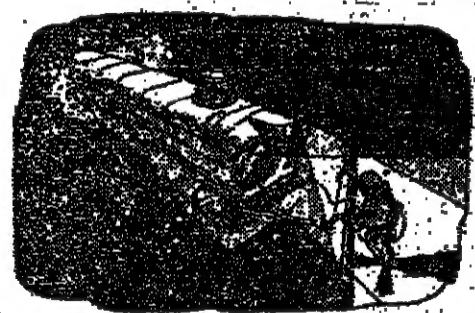
£1 million expansion
for Roneo Vickers

Last year Roneo Vickers sold office
equipment worth over £100 million to
over 100 countries. Now we are
building a new £1 million factory for
the Group at Romford to meet a growth
in demand for stencil duplicators and
supplies, postal framing machines and
many other types of equipment.
Investment in ideas and development
has enabled us to design a push button
automatic stencil cutter with the
unique facility for producing offset
masters. More versatile than any
comparable machine, it enables people
in offices to tackle more and more
sophisticated printing jobs 'in house'.



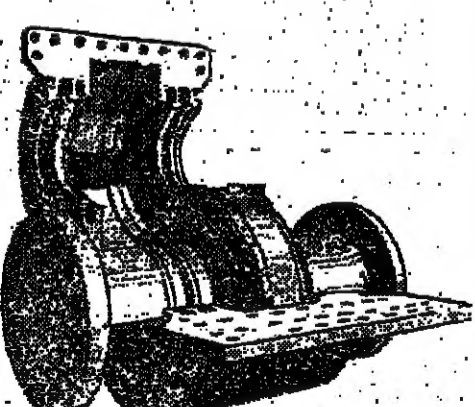
Vickers develop world markets
for medical equipment

The vital contribution that Vickers
Medical Engineering makes in
lifesaving infant care and other
medical fields, is a quality for exports too.
From portable incubators for Colombia
to advanced hyperbaric equipment for
Russia, we are winning new markets
throughout the world with our skill,
resources and advanced technology.



Vickers increase their lead in
off-shore engineering

Vickers are amongst the world leaders in
submersibles and support craft for
off-shore engineering. When conditions
are tough, in what mariners term sea
state six, for example, Vickers expertise
really comes into its own. We are also
deeply involved in developing further
techniques, not only for off-shore oil
but across a far wider spectrum.



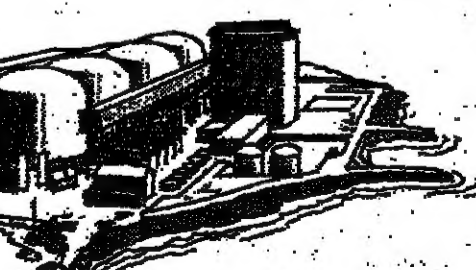
Vickers launch
£1.1 million programme for
Michell Bearings

White metal bearings continue to
contribute to progress in many
engineering fields. We are accelerating
the rate of progress with a new £1.1
million development programme at the
Newcastle plant of Michell Bearings.



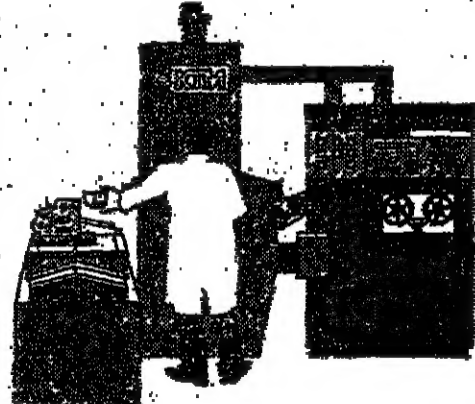
Vickers extend a long-running
success in printing

The Olympic Gold and Marathon
printing plates from Howson-Algroup
were enormous advances in
lithographic printing and they have
won markets in over 90 countries.
Now we are investing in still more
technically advanced production
equipment and research facilities at
Leeds - ready for the next step forward.



Vickers improve
nuclear production facilities

Our leadership in producing loops and
test rigs in the U.K. for nuclear re-
search in many parts of the world is playing
a vital part in nuclear development
programmes. We have also expanded
our nuclear production facilities
overseas with another million square
feet of factory floor space in Canada,
producing large specialist components
used in nuclear stations like the one
illustrated here.



Vickers put new power into
automated machine tools

Making products to help other people
make products has long been one of
Vickers major engineering activities.
Now we are expanding our interests in
automated high-technology machine
tools through our recent investment in
Kearney and Trecker Marwin.



Vickers expand their interest
in the bottling industry

The supply of bottling plant for beer,
soft drinks and milk is another field
where potential demand continues to
be high. We are carrying out advanced
new projects in complete bottle
handling and filling, and are investing
in still more progress through our
Vickers-Dawson Division.



OVERSEAS

10-storey fall from Johannesburg police headquarters turns spotlight on deaths in detention

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Feb 15

A young African plunged 10 storeys to his death at the Johannesburg police headquarters today after he had climbed on to a ledge outside the building, apparently in an attempt to escape.

Mr Matthews Mabilane was being detained under the Terrorism Act. His death brings to 18 the number of people who are known to have died in detention since last March. Of these, 15 were being detained for political reasons.

A further six prisoners have died in Transkei prisons.

According to a spokesman for the security police, from whose floor the man fell, the detainee opened a window and climbed through before anyone could stop him. He stumbled while running along a narrow ledge and fell into a courtyard area at the back of a building.

The high number of deaths in detention during recent months has provoked expressions of concern by opposition politicians and churchmen. A conference of Roman Catholic bishops in Pretoria last week expressed "grave misgivings" about such deaths.

Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Police, recently stated in an interview that some of the

dead were members of the banned African National Congress who were committing suicide on the orders of the Communist Party.

In Parliament today Mr Kruger refused to answer six Opposition questions regarding the number of deaths, injuries, detentions and subsequent court cases resulting from last year's rioting.

The opposition newspaper, *Road Daily Mail*, has compiled a list of people who have died while detained for political reasons.

Mr Joseph Mdluli, aged 50, a former member of the African National Congress, died within 24 hours of being detained in Durban last March. Four security policemen were acquitted of charges of culpable homicide in connection with his death.

Mr Mapelela Mphahlele, aged 25, a former official of the South African Students' Organization, died in an East London police station on August 4. The police said he hanged himself with his jeans.

Mr Luke Mazwembe, Mr Jacob Mashabane, and Mr Ernest Mamasela are also said to have hanged themselves.

Mr Wellington Tshabane, an employee of the De Beers Lesotho Mining Company, died on December 11, three days after being detained. Police

said he committed suicide.

Mr George Botha, a Port Elizabeth schoolteacher, died on December 15, five days after being detained. The police said he jumped six floors down a stairwell.

Meanwhile, legislation tabled in Parliament today proposes the doubling of fines for violations of the country's pass laws, which control the movement of blacks in "white" areas. An amendment to the existing law would increase fines from £32 to £64 or three months' imprisonment or both for violations.

The pass laws dictate that blacks must always carry reference books ("passes") which are endorsed by the authorities and specify where they may live and work. They are used to control the influx of blacks from rural to urban areas. There are no similar restrictions on the movements of whites.

Mr Sybrand van Niekerk, administrator of Transvaal province, said the government would take steps this week to "deregister" four Roman Catholic schools in Johannesburg and Pretoria if they continued to admit black pupils.

Father Domitius Scholten, secretary-general of the bishops' conference, said the Church was not going to give way on its open schools policy.

Gandhi son one of few youth candidates

From Kuldip Nayar Delhi, Feb 15

Mr Sanjay Gandhi has been nominated to stand as the Congress Party candidate for the Amethi constituency in Uttar Pradesh, next to Ravi Barel, the constituency of his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister.

Mr Gandhi is 30 and leader of the Youth Congress but the youth wing has not done well. It does not have more than 12 candidates among the 320 party names announced so far.

At one time, the Youth Congress attracted 200 seats, but then the number dwindled and now its members are only a handful. It is really the departure of Mr Jagjivan Ram, who has constituted a separate party, Congress for Democracy, that has affected its fortunes.

The Congress Party's list shows that it has preferred to "stay with the old." The contest of one member of the old guard is that it is better to depend on the known and tried people than on the unknown youth.

The candidates fielded today by the Congress Party in Uttar Pradesh, which has 35 but 542 seats in the Lok Sabha, are mostly sitting members. This has been the pattern in other states. Mrs Gandhi is visiting her constituency on Thursday to file the nomination papers, the last date for doing so.

Mr D. K. Borooah, the Congress Party president, said in a statement today that the Opposition was a disparate group and that the Congress Party would give stability to the country.

Let us be clear that the choice is not between democracy and dictatorship, for democracy we have and cherish, else there would be no free elections," he said.

"The choice is between going forward with freedom towards peace, progress and prosperity, or returning to disorder and chaos."

The Janata Party announced that agreement had been reached between Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Janata Party in Tamil Nadu.

Delhi, Feb 15.—Mr Sanjay Gandhi will be opposed by Mr Ravinder Pratap Singh, a 35-year-old lawyer, who will stand for the Janata Party. He is an unknown force.

The contest is likely to be one of the most interesting and significant in the entire election, in spite of the fact that



His mother's portrait in the background, Mr Sanjay Gandhi makes an election speech.

Criticisms Privy Council death ap

By Marcel Bertins

As a campaign in Trinidad to save a murderer from execution by lawyers in England draws the Privy Council decision.

At the end of 1 after a one-hour h committee refuses Branch leaves to at Trinidad still remain Council as its ultim of appeal.

The only hope c now lies in the P Trinidad, to whom has been sent.

In London, Mr solicitor, Mr Benedic and other lawyers v ledge of the case, ar at the approach tak Privy Council to h tion.

Mr Branch was to death in 1972 fo der of a taxi-d Ramjattan Ramdeer. The evidence was t al. He was the l seen in the taxi l driver's body was f because. No motive was n established for the k Mr Branch has pr innocence throughout.

The main contro rounds the medical evidence, which will be heard by the Privy Council. This concluded Ramdeen had died o caused by strangulat.

Since the trial, Britain's leading p has sworn an affida that the procedures c in Trinidad were a and contrary to goo practice.

Dr Eric Wright, p morbid anatomy and pathologist at King's College Hospital, London, p his affidavit that a tests and observations to determine the caus were not carried out.

There were, he say medical evidence, five possibilities of deat occurred by natura. There were, in addi other ways in which d have occurred by th tion of only minor v.

Dr Wright conclude report of the autopsy on the driver was "It was 'unsafe and tory for determining of death or for a whether death occur direct or causal violence at all'."

The Privy Coun take into account that saying that it was because it could h available at the 1 Branch's lawyers l that there were no fi finance for obtaini evidence before, and : was no independent v available in Trinidad l.

Mr Birnberg claim Privy Council's appo introduction of new was more restrictive of the English Court o. He especially critic Judicial Committee, accepting evidence p what he called a "ma change of justice."

The petition for appeal also include of points based inadequacy of iden and the judge's allea to instruct the jury about a number of issu summing up.

Pretoria conference takes a chance on alienating white congregations as well as the Government Catholic bishops challenge apartheid

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg, Feb 15

Not since the late Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Geoffrey Clayton, opposed the infamous "church clause" of the Native Laws Amendment Act (under which Africans may be prevented from attending services in a "white" area) has the hierarchy of a church come out so openly against the Government's racial policies as have the Roman Catholic bishops.

In issuing a 21-point action programme at the end of their conference in Pretoria last week the bishops have taken a stand against the whole structure of racial segregation and discrimination. Having professed to be "one and undivided," they have given notice that they intend to practise what they preach.

By South African standards the bishops' programme is uncompromisingly radical. An official of the anti-apartheid Christian Institute even described it as "momentous."

After first opening Catholic schools to children of all races, the bishops' programme is to desegregate its hospitals and other institutions. The bishops have come out in favour of conscientious objection, at a time when the Government is preparing the white population to stand alone "against the black Marxist threat."

They have also spoken out against alleged police brutality, a particularly sensitive issue.

Most significantly, the bishops have declared themselves unequivocally on the side of black consciousness, and all those who work for "the promotion of human dignity and the legitimate aspira-

tions of oppressed people."

Many churchmen of all denominations in South Africa have been expressing themselves in such terms for a long time. Examples such as Dr Beyers Naude, Father Cosmas Desmond, Father Aeldred Stubbs or Father David Russell come to mind. But they have been speaking as individuals.

The importance of the Catholic bishops' stance is that the Church—one of the largest in South Africa, with a congregation of about two million—has identified itself with black aspirations.

"They are beginning to see things from a black person's viewpoint," the Christian Institute official commented. "At last the authentic black voice is being heard."

It has taken time for this voice to be heard. This is perhaps not altogether surprising because, although 80 per cent of the Catholic laity are black, 80 per cent of its clergy are white. Of the 31 bishops at last week's conference, all but five were white.

Catholic leaders admit that the Church has dragged its feet in the past. Father Dominie Scholten, an official of the Bishops' Conference, said Catholics had allowed themselves to fall behind in their Christian attitudes and that some "catching up" was now necessary.

The bishops' pronouncement seems certain to bring into conflict not only with the Government but with some white members of their congregation.

With the murder of seven Catholic missionaries in Rhodesia still fresh in people's minds, many whites find it in-

comprehensible that the church leaders in South Africa and Rhodesia should wish to ally themselves with militant blacks while the same time failing (in their view) to take a strong stand against "black terrorism."

This argument is vigorously rejected by the Archbishop of Durban, Mr Denis Hurley, one of the Church's most outspoken opponents of apartheid. "They fling in the teeth of churchmen the death of missionaries in Rhodesia. They do not remember the deaths of 12 black detainees in South African jails in the past year," he said.

Archbishop Hurley, who recently had a petrol bomb thrown at his home, blames South Africa's segregationist policies for the failure of most whites to comprehend black attitudes. Because they have no contact with blacks they do not understand that the system they support is oppressive. Because they see only a threat of communist-inspired black terrorism, they become indignant at the very suggestion of conscientious objection.

The Catholic bishops have clearly decided that the time has come for them to stand up and be counted among those who believe that white rule is oppressive of the majority and therefore wrong. They see it as the duty of the Church—and of individual Christians to bring about change.

However, if the Catholic precedent is followed by the Anglican and Methodist congregations, that could pave the way to the creation of a united Church opposition to the Government's race policies.

Czech guards search German reporter

Vienna, Feb 15.—A West German journalist was last night ordered off the Prague-Vienna express. After a check of his belongings and a body search by Czechoslovak security guards he had to walk nearly two miles to the Austrian border.

Herr Walter Kratzer is 29 and a reporter at West German magazine *Stern*, whose Vienna office disclosed the incident today. It was nearly identical to what happened to Mr Paul Hofmann, of *The New York Times* on Saturday.

The *Stern* office said that on Saturday Kratzer had been taken from his Prague hotel at 7 am and conveyed to police headquarters. There he was interrogated for four hours on his contacts with Czechoslovak human rights groups.

The Czechoslovak Communist Party newspaper *Rude Pravo* published on Saturday a copy of a letter, which it said had been seized from Herr Kratzer and which contained information on the dissidents he was to contact in Czechoslovakia.

Rude Pravo claimed that Herr Kratzer had been gathering material "which came in handy for the collection of lies *Stern* had published in the second half of January."—AP.

Prague: *Rude Pravo* today accused the West of campaigning for human rights spokesmen in communist countries to cover up its own infringements of these rights.

It said that the West was "trying to draw attention away from the fact that Britain stands before the international court in Strasbourg because its soldiers tortured political prisoners." It also mentioned massacres in South Africa and the detention of political prisoners in Chile.

The newspaper said that "small groups of dropouts, political adventurers and traitors who have no influence in socialist countries and who represent no one" were supplying fuel for a campaign planned, conducted and financed from the West.

"These lies are aimed at covering up the fact that it is the capitalist states which are shamelessly trampling upon human rights." Their campaign was to hide the fact that there was no true democracy in the capitalist world.—Reuter.

Secretive life of a dissident press

By Paul Hofmann The New York Times Correspondent recently in Prague

A middle-aged man in a park on the left bank of the Vltava pulled a few sheets out of his briefcase and gave them to a foreigner who was walking with him. "My poor wife has been at the typewriter for most of the night," said the man with the briefcase, a well-known writer.

You know, it is a crime for a private Czechoslovak to operate a copying machine, so we have to type everything and pass our relatives and friends the service."

The writer is among a group of about 20 who run a two-year-old semi-secret publishing venture known as *Padlocked Editions*. The enterprise provides an outlet for authors who are blacklisted by the Government and cannot have their works printed.

"I can't tell you what the situation of *Padlocked Editions* is, honestly," said Mr Lucie Vaculik, a member of the publishing ring. "Issues go from hand to hand, and many people in the chain make their own copies and circulate them among their own friends."

And, he said, who has signed Charter 77, a plea for broader human and civil freedoms in Czechoslovakia, has been literary outlaw since July, 1968, when he published a manifesto that became known as the "2000 Words," which called for increasing liberalization. A month later Soviet-led troops invaded Czechoslovakia.

He would discuss his role in Charter 77, he said the police had questioned him for six to eight hours a day for a week last month, waiting to know how Charter 77 had been drafted.

He said he had written an account of the police questioning. According to Mr Vaculik, the typewritten literature from *Padlocked Editions* is not exactly illegal but the state views it with extreme dislike.

To avoid trouble, contributors cultivate an elusive style that leaves many things unsaid and relies on being read between the lines.—New York Times News Service.

US to make more use of UN human rights study

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Feb 15

The United Nations Human Rights Commission is to be "a much more significant component in shaping American foreign policy than it has been at times in the past," Mr Edward Lowenstein, the new United States representative on the commission, said today.

"We have to try to find common purposes in the commission overlapping concerns about human rights," he told a news conference. "We have to be candid in saying what we feel. There can be no valid consensus without this."

But Mr Lowenstein, who appeared last week to be on the point of breathing fire over the arrest of Soviet dissidents, today adopted a more measured tone on this issue. He said his delegation was canvassing the views of other delegations to decide on how best to proceed.

By 23 votes for, three against and six abstentions, the commission passed a resolution critical of Israel for "violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine."

M Giscard gives ban pledge on S African arms

Brazzaville, Feb 15.—President Giscard d'Estaing last night assured President Mousa Mawa of Mali that France would continue its ban on sale of military equipment to South Africa for air and land forces.

In a speech at a reception given by Colonel Traore, the French President reaffirmed that among the essential aims of French policy was the "strengthening of the capacity of Africans to resist foreign interference."

He declared that the aims of France and Mali were identical: majority rule for Rhodesia, independence for Namibia (South-West Africa), and condemnation of the policy of apartheid, "which affronts human dignity."

Mr Giscard d'Estaing said the Franco-African summit to be held in April at Dakar should aim at rebuilding a world economic order "accessible to, and accepted by, all." He noted that this summit should reach conclusions in time for them to be studied by the conference of industrialized countries next May.

The French leader left for Paris today at the end of his two-day visit.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

New head of Rhodesia call-up

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Feb 15

The youngest member of the Rhodesian Cabinet, Mr Rowan Crojje, has been given one of the most onerous responsibilities in the Smith administration, that of handling military manpower requirements.

Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, announced that setting up of a National Manpower Board in the House of Assembly today when members reconvened after a five-month adjournment.

Mr Crojje, aged 39, will head the board, which takes over these duties from Mr Reginald Cowper, who resigned last week as Minister of Defence and of Co-ordination because of disputes over the increased call-up of men to fight the guerrilla war.

Mr Crojje is a former Dutch Reformed Church minister, is the present Minister for Labour, Health and Social Welfare. Articles and energetic, he retains his other portfolio. Mr Smith did not announce a

new Minister of Defence, nor did he make any statement on his latest initiatives to reach a settlement with moderate blacks inside Rhodesia and plan the end of Co-ordination because of disputes over the increased call-up of men to fight the guerrilla war.

Salisbury, Feb 15.—The defence budget tabled in Parliament today has been increased to £92m, just under a fifth of the national budget.

Meanwhile, security forces headquarters announced another 15 people have died in the guerrilla war.

Nigeria move to heal Kenya's rift with Tanzania

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Feb 15

Nigeria today called on Kenya and Tanzania to settle their border dispute, which has seriously affected tourist traffic in the East African states.

The peace initiative came amid reports that Tanzania had seized 60 large Kenyan lorries, which were carrying loads to and from Zambia under an agreement to which the Tanzanian Government is a party.

Tanzania closed the frontier between the two countries last month after East African Airways was grounded because of a cash crisis.

An emergency meeting of the East African communications and finance councils, made up of ministers from the three countries, was to have been held yesterday but was postponed.

Up quickly through overtime. But they will still take a big slice out of the tax rebates with which President Carter hopes to revive the economy this year; and the inflationary effect is likely to last far longer.

The winter has also taken its toll of life. No final figure of victims has yet been established, but in Buffalo alone—where there is a population of about one million—at least 25 people died because of the snowstorm which almost buried the city in several feet of snow.

Some were people who froze to death in their cars; others were locked over by snow ploughs or had heart attacks while shovelling snow. It took days to get the streets back to normal.

The same was true of Watertown, New York State, a much smaller city north-east of Buffalo, which had even more snow. Mr Pat Fioretti, the superintendent of public works, said that they had had

Mr Rowland in Argentina for Falklands talks

From Our Correspondent Buenos Aires, Feb 15

Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, arrived here today at the start of a five-day visit. He will then have two days of talks in Buenos Aires.

Mr Rowlands told journalists his purpose was to discover whether a basis existed for renewing negotiations with Argentina over the future of the islands. There was nothing of Anglo-Argentine relations during the Peronist Government, which was deposed by the Argentine military last March.

During his meetings with representatives of the 1,900 Falkland Islanders, Mr Rowlands said he would hold broad discussions on how they see their future. He would inquire into the prospect for "a new political framework" for cooperation with Argentina, he added.

The Shackleton report, issued last year, argued that the islands were economically viable only within a framework of cooperation with Argentina. Britain has made clear that the interests of the islanders are its primary concern, and that "nothing can be accomplished behind their backs."

Sakharov 'do not weaken appeal to Mr Carter

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Feb 15

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Russian physicist, has publicly called on President Carter to continue with his policy of speaking out in support of civil rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

In a television interview with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Dr Sakharov said that any hesitancy or partial retreat would give the Kremlin the impression that the new administration would succumb to blackmail and repression.

Any sign of weakness would have an effect on all aspects of relations between East and West, including the negotiations on disarmament, he said.

Dr Sakharov's comments were made from his Moscow, at a time when other dissident leaders under increasing pressure from the Soviet authorities, been warned that he arrest if he again make "derogatory" statements.

In his interview he he said in a paragraph a CBS correspondent that the bold, moral adopted by Mr Carter, his hope and respect denied that support of rights round the world were the affairs of other countries.

It was, he said, a ma the preservation of the ocratic moral values American people an whole of humanity, their freedom in the R

Dictatorship planned for Sri Lanka

From Our Own Correspondent Colombo, Feb 15

Mr J. R. Jayawardene, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, has announced that a new constitution will be introduced in the near future, which will give him more powers.

He said that the new constitution would be a "dictatorship" and that it would be "a step towards the establishment of a new order in Sri Lanka."

Mr Jayawardene said that the new constitution would be "a step towards the establishment of a new order in Sri Lanka."

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Pornographic magazine's publisher on bail

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Feb 15

Mr Larry Flynt, the publisher of *Hustler*, the pornographic magazine, was released from jail in Cincinnati last night after bail had been set at \$55,000 (£22,000). The decision to allow him bail was taken by a court of appeals.

Mr Flynt was found guilty last week of pandering, obscenity and engaging in organized crime. He was sentenced to between seven and 25 years in jail and fines totalling \$11,000.

As he left jail, Mr Flynt said he would continue to sell *Hustler*.

Cost of US freeze estimated at £3,500m

From Peter Strafford New York, Feb 15

Americans in the eastern part of the United States are making the most of the milder weather these days. But the effects of the recent cold spell are lingering on, and there are warnings that it is after all only mid-February, so the cold may return.

Preparations are being made in case there is flooding along the rivers as the accumulated snow and ice melt. Latest estimates by the Department of Commerce are that more than 500,000 people are still temporarily out of work because of the shortage of natural gas, not to mention all the schools that are still closed.

It is clear that the United States, and its economy, have taken quite a beating. The extent of the damage will take some time to work out, but *Time* magazine quoted \$6,000m (£3,500m) for the overall cost.

Time pointed out that many economists expected the losses, especially wages, to be made

up quickly through overtime. But they will still take a big slice out of the tax rebates with which President Carter hopes to revive the economy this year; and the inflationary effect is likely to last far longer.

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...and love
...report
...flies in
...blockade
...at appeal
...Dictatorship
...planned
...for Sri Lanka
...kidnap victim
...police chase

15

Pot headed

Bill Crowley started making pots that looked like crabs when she tired of making pots that looked like crabs. "None of them worked really, but I have made a very functional piece," she says. She did find she was making likenesses, though. "Now if you are unconvinced, you can come across a ceramic portrait from her. She is an English lady. She has a hole in the top of her head to let it show that you can build, like a pot, it shows the bottom up. But Bill incorporates bits of brick in her clay to strengthen it and to make you come out with a full face, warts and blemishes. "I am not unkind to people, but everybody is doing the same way. Sometimes I have done pots for friends, I have thought better not to let them see it to tell them who it was," Bill Crowley said yesterday. The exhibition of her work at the Crafts Advisory Committee gallery.

"The Establishment (or as I prefer to call it, the Kissing Ring) must still be shuddering . . .", Kerby wrote.



the Crafts Advisory Comm
llery. P

day after O'Connor's play, *Tap on the Shoulder*, was screened on television. It portrayed a cockney crook who, by corruption and greasing of palms, procured a knighthood for himself.

"May I be one of the first

"The Establishment (or as I prefer to call it, the Kissing Inferno) must still be shuddering . . .", Kerby wrote.

Miss Crowley said yesterday exhibition of her work at the Crafts Advisory Commission gallery.




to them, but they must sort out among themselves who is to

"May I be one of the first

...", Kerby wrote.

P

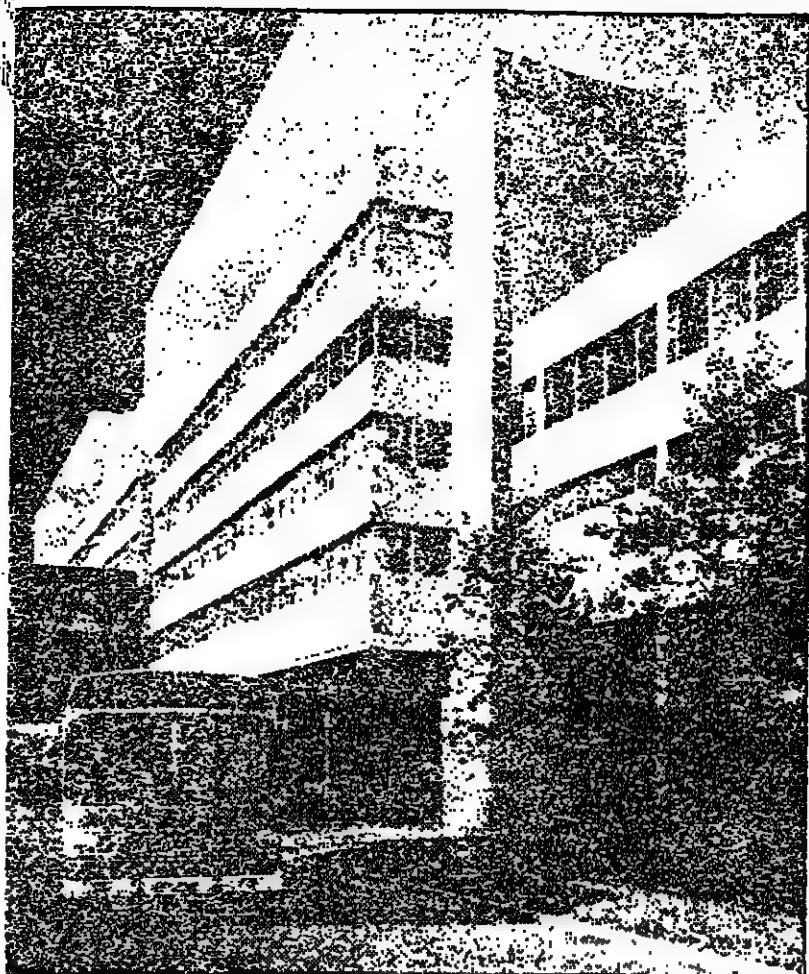


May I be one of the first to

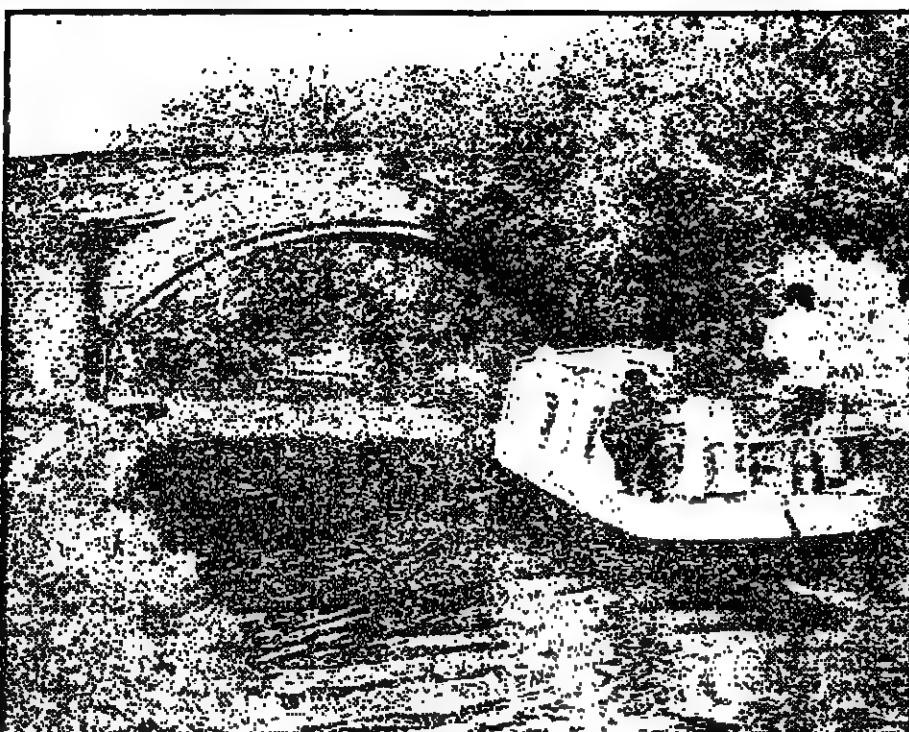
... , Aeroy wrote.

RUNCORN

a Special Report



all offices above the bus station at Shopping City. Right: the Bridgewater Canal, which has been developed as an amenity for the town.



Ancient name lives on

The relationships between an elected local authority upon whose territory a new town is grafted, and the appointed development corporation, are nearly always delicate and in some cases have been known to become abrasive.

In the case of Runcorn it is claimed by officials of both bodies that the relationship may have at times been delicate, but that there have not been serious frictions.

In a somewhat unexpected way the association now may have been helped by local government reorganisation taking place just 10 years after the designation of the new town area.

Until 1974 the elected local authority was the Runcorn District Council of Cheshire, a fairly small organisation which had had to grapple with many social problems associated with an old industrial area.

There was undoubtedly some feeling in the early stages of the new town construction, particularly when residents of the old, rather run-down Runcorn saw the sheer size and value of the resources being poured into the green fields overlooking them. That feeling still persists to some extent, as it must in all the second generation new towns which have been grafted on to existing communities. Runcorn was the first of these and both the advantages and disadvantages of the policy have now been recognised.

From the start, however, both the elected council and development corporation did their best to resolve differences by sitting round a table and talking about them.

In the early 1970s the position of the elected authority took on a new dimension when plans were announced for the Cheshire county boundary to be extended north of the Mersey to include Widnes and Warrington. This was done under the reorganisation scheme to compensate Cheshire for the loss to the new Greater Manchester county of some of its highest rate yield territories around the southern fringes of Manchester city.

A new district authority was created, spanning the Mersey and due to administer the twin towns of Widnes and Runcorn which

historically had regarded one another in a sense of friendly rivalry across a county boundary and a thousand feet of water.

The new authority was given the name of Halton after an ancient ecclesiastical district. A number of new senior officers took over the reins including Mr Ronald Turton, the chief executive, who by coincidence had once been a member of the new town development corporation's planning staff.

Halton, and the former Runcorn district councils, have always been responsible for certain functions within the new town including cleaning and refuse services and the administration of some of the smaller open spaces and playing fields. Cheshire County, as the education and highways authority, has been responsible for schools and adopted roads.

Under various changes and amendments to the new town legislation a commission will retain some say in the administration of Runcorn, even after the new town has reached maturity about 1981 and the development corporation has folded its tents (or to be more accurate demolished its prefabricated offices) and stolen away.

The biggest change on maturity will be the taking over by Halton District Council of responsibility for housing and all related assets. The local authority will also take over community centres and most of the local shopping centres, although Shopping City and the industrial sites will be administered by the commission.

Taking over the new town housing will make Halton one of the biggest shire county district landlords in the country, owning something like 23,000 dwellings. This may present certain political problems in the long-term future since more than half the population will be living in council property.

Halton will also rate about sixth in a national league table in terms of total population in a shire county district.

In the next three or four critical years Halton between the elected authority and the development corporation will obviously have to be even closer as the former takes

over more responsibility, and it is perhaps fortunate that there is unlikely to be any political change in the Labour control of Halton council.

Already regular meetings take place between officers of the two organisations and quarterly meetings are held when officers from all departments explain technical aspects to the elected councillors.

Halton council officials are particularly anxious that everything possible should be done to prevent any feeling of inferiority among the residents on the former Widnes side of the river and among those of Runcorn old town.

This is not easy because both areas suffer from the after effects of concentrated heavy industry established in the pre-conservation era, from derelict land and old housing stock. On the Widnes side there is a serious shortage of attractive shopping facilities and curious eyes are naturally cast across the Mersey towards Shopping City and the other expensive features of the new town.

Another aspect of local government reorganisation has had less happy results. There is considerable feeling in the new Merseyside Metropolitan Council that it is unfair to exclude from it all the main growth points of the natural, geographical, sub-region of Merseyside, Runcorn New Town, Ellesmere Port, and Skelmersdale New Town all lie outside the Merseyside county boundaries.

One of the most outspoken critics of this aspect of the 1974 local government reorganisation is Mr William Selton, chairman of Merseyside County Council, chairman of the North West Economic Planning Council, and chairman of Runcorn New Town Development Corporation.

This viewpoint in no way reduces Mr Selton's personal pride in Runcorn, however. He never loses an opportunity to promote its interests but, one always feels, he would have liked it to have been placed within his own county's boundaries.

J. C.

fitting new on to old gives a flying start

what contracts, if any, can be let this year. Nevertheless nearly 10,000 dwellings have been built or are under contract and 9,000 new jobs have been created in the economically deprived geographical area of Merseyside.

The new town on the south bank of the Mersey estuary is due to become "mature" in about two years' time and the present indications are that the development corporation, commissioned in April, 1964, will be able to hand over its task to the permanent administrators in 1981, having thereby created a town in a space of 17 years.

While no one in Runcorn rejoices at anyone else's problems, its success, compared say with the vicissitudes now being encountered at Skelmersdale near by, has been remarkable.

Targets for both housing and employment have been met year after year, the original master plan drawn up by Professor Arthur Ling, former head of Nottingham University architecture department, has been adhered to closely, apart from two considered amendments, one agreed to in 1973, the other in July last year.

Both those amendments were dictated by a recognition that forecasts of population growth were not being substantiated by events, and that the average occupancy rate per household was turning out to be lower than estimated—that is with smaller families becoming the trend, rather more houses would be needed for the same number of people.

A further assessment of future trends also showed that there would be a need for house building to go on, albeit at a much reduced rate, after "maturity" year, 1979, in order to accommodate second generation families.

In 1973 therefore the original housing target of 12,000 dwellings (9,000 for rent and 3,000 for sale) was amended to 12,500 (10,500 for rent and 2,000 for sale).

In the second amendment proposals it was made clear that there would be no need to extend the original design-

ated area but that additional reserve land for houses could be found by re-shuffling allocations without damaging the original concept of a balanced mixture of housing, industry, shops and services, and open spaces.

The advantages and disadvantages of grafting a new town on to an existing community instead of following the earlier green field policy are now clearly identified, and largely as a result of the Runcorn experience.

In Runcorn's own case the advantage will probably prove to have tipped the scales in the end because it has now been fairly clearly demonstrated that "grafting" gives a flying start to the essential process of attracting new industry. Runcorn in the 1950s might not have been a familiar place on the map to every secretary in a London business house, but it was well known in northern industrial circles and its road, rail, air, and particularly its sea communications had already been well developed, although to

nothing like the same extent as they are now.

Although there have been inevitable disappointments, the influx of industry has been remarkably steady with a particularly healthy proportion of widely diversified small units making for an overall stability of employment. Respectably the unemployment rate among residents remains higher than anyone would like but that is more a reflection of national problems in general, and Merseyside problems in particular, than of anything having gone badly wrong with the new town plan.

The disadvantages have been mainly felt by the residents of the "old town" of Runcorn which, as a medium-sized centre of mixed industry (originally based on the leather trade) and with a population of fewer than 30,000, was not well endowed with houses, shops, schools or general amenities.

Inevitably there was a sense of resentment at first, perhaps heightened by suspicion of incoming Liverpoolians with their general reputation for a certain brash-

continued on next page

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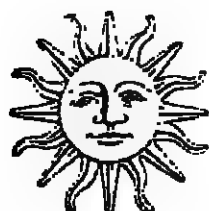
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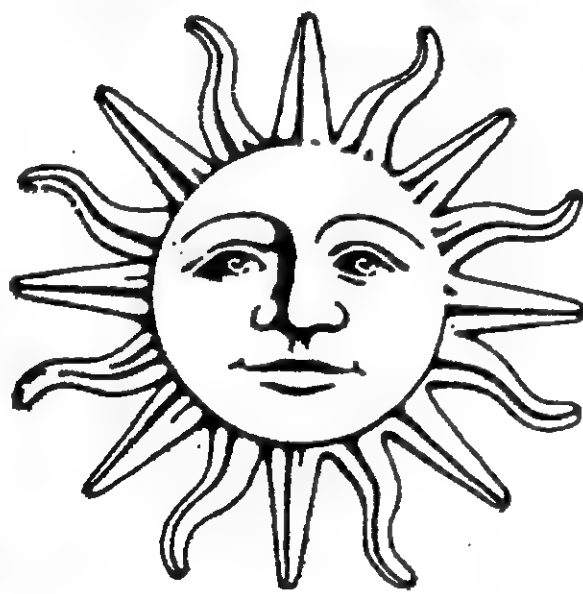
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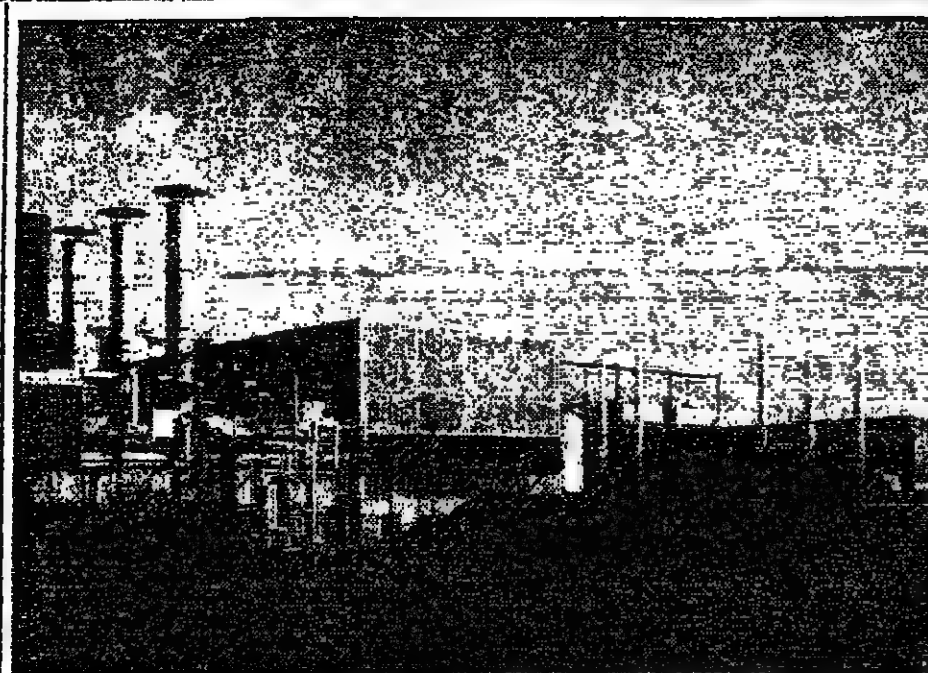


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The Bass Charrington brewery at Whitehouse.

Industry a success story despite setbacks

by R. W. Shakespeare

In industrial terms and, more especially, in its regional context Runcorn New Town is an undoubted success story. Over the past decade since its industrial development programme began it has suffered disappointments and setbacks. But none has had the paralyzing impact of the disasters that have beset its near neighbour across the Lancashire border at Skelmersdale.

On the face of things—and the face of this particular stretch of the Mersey holt can never claim to have been a pretty one—it is difficult to see why Runcorn has taken on such a favourable image with industrialists, while the other Merseyside-oriented new town has plunged into a depression from which it may be lucky to recover in another decade, if at all.

It may have something to do with the fact that Skelmersdale was almost built from green fields, while Runcorn had a well-established industrial base in the old town's long standing links with ICI's Mond Division which is still a major and expanding element in the town's economic strength.

The explanation may also lie in a fundamentally different approach to housing policies. Runcorn insisted from the outset on a high degree of selectivity, through

which it has achieved a much more balanced community structure. The Skelmersdale authorities became committed to taking more or less what they were sent as a result of the City of Liverpool's rehousing programme. Or, perhaps, in the final analysis it may be seen that personality has played a more than usually crucial role and that Runcorn has been both wise and fortunate in its choice of general manager of its development corporation. Mr Derrick Ranwell is a chief executive whose outstanding ability is widely recognized, not least among the members of his own staff.

Whatever the explanations the results are clear and point to Runcorn having achieved a degree of industrial development and diversification that puts it in an enviable position compared not only with its new town rival but with much of the North-west region as a whole. At present, for instance, it has an unemployment rate below the regional average and significantly below the general level for Merseyside; while Skelmersdale is one of the country's unemployment black spots with a jobless total approaching 25 per cent.

Leaving aside the huge ICI complex, which is just outside the new town's designated area but is, nevertheless, an integral part of its economic and job creation endowment, Runcorn's industrial development programme has

been focused primarily on two large estates, Astmoor and Whitehouse, with some smaller growth areas elsewhere.

With nearly 70 new firms having moved in and the job creation total approaching 9,000, Runcorn can claim to have added one job for each new household, although it still has some way to go towards its eventual target of 14,000 jobs by the time the best population level of 70,000 is reached in 1979.

What is encouraging to the development corporation planners is the sensible mix of manufacturing and service activities achieved; all the more remarkable because Runcorn has never really become involved in a hard sell exercise over its industrial build-up. Rather it has been content to let the case build up and without frills in what it judged to be the right quarters.

The response has been gratifying. The two main estates are geared to quite different functions. Whitehouse has been zoned for large-scale industrial projects involving primarily purpose-built plants. It is there that Bass Charrington has put down its £30m brewery complex on a 100-acre site and Guinness has a new keeling plant. Nearby is the huge and still expanding operation of YKK Fasteners, manufacturers of zip fasteners and the only wholly Japanese-owned company in Britain. There are also two large food processing plants: Food Products in manufacturing, and Cearus and Brown in grocery distribution.

A major disappointment has been that Schreiber, the furniture firm, built almost up to the completion stage—400,000 sq ft factory on a four-acre site (designed, like every other industrial building in Runcorn, to development corporation standards and appearance specifications) then decided not to go ahead and occupy it. The development corporation eventually bought it in, from the contractor, at a "knock down" price that represented the actual outlay and it now lies empty.

Factory linked to special transport system

But Runcorn's industrial development officials are not altogether dismayed. They see the huge factory as a potential advantage as soon as investment confidence increases. They want to see the factory go as a single unit—rather than sub-dividing it—and they can justify claim that a major industrial user comes along it will put him 18 months ahead of any similar "green fields" investment decision. The Astmoor Industrial Estate is the more interesting of Runcorn's industrial developments since it represents not only the diversifying element in the overall strategy, but an attractive example of industrial design and landscaping, linked to a special transport system.

Astmoor now houses some 60 firms, extending from the manufacture of cocktail biscuits to steel fabrication, accommodated in award-winning design factories which are largely the result of one of the most concentrated advance factory building programmes in the country.

The units extend in size from standard 12,800 sq ft, through double nursery at 5,400 sq ft to nursery at 3,200 sq ft—all with appropriate yard space and some with land options for expansion. The factory buildings have a standard single-storey profile and are also built with standard external finish in colour and materials.

The estate is served by Runcorn's magnificent double road system, the expressway and the highway. It is small wonder that Runcorn has been able to lease its factory units almost as fast as it could build them and that, once occupied, few firms have moved out. The new town's real problem in industry, which it shares with most of the region, is to find major investors ready to put down their own purpose-built plants. But all in all Runcorn looks to its industrial future with quiet confidence.

The author is Northern Industrial Correspondent, The Times.

Place where people are priority

In any conversation with officials of the Runcorn New Town Development Corporation one point never fails to emerge and be given particular emphasis. It is that the primary and dominant function of the new town is to provide homes.

This is not to suggest that Runcorn in any sense regards itself as an overspill development. Indeed it is at some pains to demonstrate that that is just what it is not. Rather it has, from the outset, been a question of acknowledging that while other things—industry, shops, services and all amenities—are vital, they are the necessary elements in the total concept of creating a place where people live.

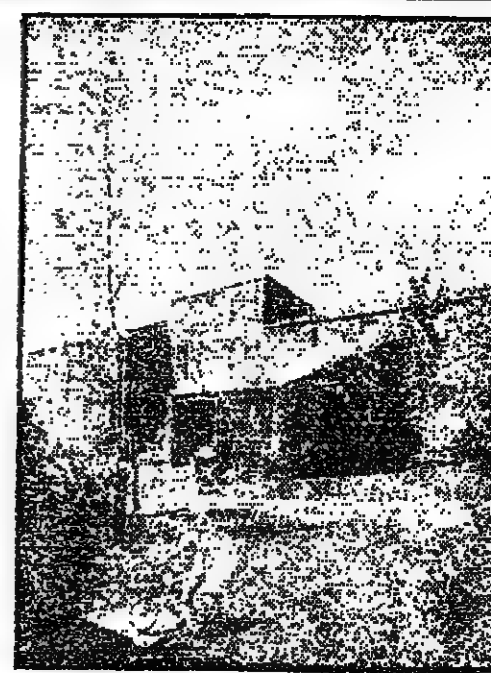
Runcorn's planning, the programming of its development, and its buildings reflect that basic philosophy. It is an environment created for people, not an experiment in fitting people into an environment; although many of those who have moved there do do so because of a fairly sharp change in environment.

There are no high rise flats in Runcorn, an agreeable surprise when one recalls that the new town was launched in 1964 when tower blocks were proliferating throughout the land. Mr R. L. E. Harrison, the development corporation's chief architect and planning officer, says: "I think there were perhaps fortunate in being able to learn from other people's mistakes, although I think high rise flats are appropriate in some situations."

At the same time I don't think we would ever have seriously considered high rise for Runcorn. We have flats, of course, but they are a maximum of four or five storeys and we have been able to state able to state the landscape here to provide easy access at various levels.

One of the factors that saved Runcorn from high rise flats, and indeed from tower blocks of any kind, was the basic architectural and planning concept of making the sandstone outcrop of Hulton Rock and the ruin of Helton Castle the beach marks for the new town's landscaping. No building that would obscure this view has been permitted and the colours and textures used either blend or complement the distant landscape.

It would be hard to claim that Runcorn ever will be a pretty place in the conventional sense. In visual terms, it is a place that does not offend, tries hard to please and occasionally surprises a surprise. Mostly it strives to be a place where people can quickly come to feel a sense of belonging and of relevance. And in this it



Housing in the first phase of the Palace I development which was commenced in the RLB tower awards in 1974.

Statistically, Runcorn's achievement in housing is impressive in itself—a total so far of well over 8,000 houses for rent and more than 1,600 by private development for sale, with nearly 2,000 more in both categories under construction and as many again under contract but not yet started.

In industrial building, Runcorn has happily followed the maxim that since factories can seldom be expected to have a great deal of eye appeal, the less they are seen the better for everyone. Hence the industrial estate at Astmoor has been planned as a series of single-storey units, of uniform external finish, again in a well-landscaped setting. Boardings

and large signs. Factory units identified by name plates. A good and largely concentric perimeter area.

On the second trial estate, where are purpose built, there is a strict control on visual factors: as areas, as possible, screened from the side of a factory, it is an obligation to assist with money.

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ESTATE COMMISSION 28 GROSVENOR STREET

Om city within a town act of faith

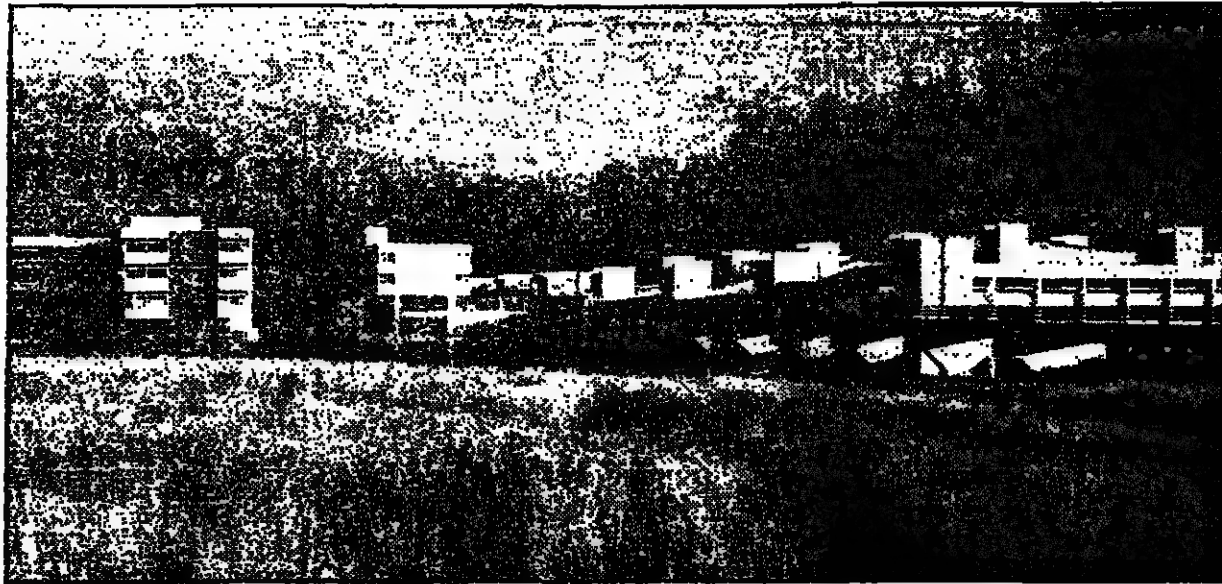
and a bend, or top sq ft (excluding car parking) of a rise on either of 2,400 vehicles) which expressway or the itself includes a lottable area and at first sight it of 590,000 sq ft.

unreal: a giant's huge, stark and Grosvenor Estates manages the entire Shopping City area, with its management team and staff operating from the adjacent Grosvenor House office block which it has also built for commercial letting. All trading premises, from the smallest 20 sq ft kiosk to the largest—78,000 sq ft complex occupied by Tesco—are leased, some on contracts geared to turnover. More than 100 separate units are let to a comprehensive range of shops.

Five major banks and two building societies have moved in and there are two pubs, restaurants, cafes and a bingo hall. There is a cinema but no theatre or live entertainment of any kind.

The Shopping City, officially opened by the Queen in May, 1972, has been designed to achieve complete segregation of pedestrians and traffic. It is served by Runcorn's two figure of eight highways—the expressway giving access to the car parks and the busway running into a bus station complex which lies between the shopping and commercial development areas.

Buses serving all housing developments throughout the town run at six-minute intervals and car parking is fairly



Shopping City from the west: still much to do.

cheap. Once having left the bus, or parked, the shopper is cosseted in what is described as "an air conditioned and controlled shopping environment". Among other things a single major district heating scheme provides for the shopping area, offices and the Southgate residential estate near by, where residents are within traffic-free walking distance of the Shopping City.

But does it work? The town's earliest residents will, albeit unreasonably, look for all shops and services from the start. But most things will not pay until there are enough customers bringing regular trade.

Grosvenor's experience elsewhere—which included the shopping area grafted into the ancient central area of Chester—suggested that Runcorn's Shopping City could be made to attract business from a much wider area than the new town itself. Its catchment area could, because of excellent road communications, include a good deal of the Mersey belt—Warrington, Widnes, St Helens, Wigan.

The main aim of the development, from the outset, had to be to provide sufficient attraction to prevent new Runcorn residents from forming shopping habits that involved travelling further afield—or back to the familiar areas from which they had come—and

to start to pull in trade from the larger catchment area.

It has not been an easy task and indeed the struggle to make Shopping City an unqualified success is still an uphill one. But positive action is being taken.

By the spring of 1975 it was—as Grosvenor Estates readily admits—becoming increasingly clear that all was far from well with the Shopping City. A number of tenants were running into financial difficulties, the car park usage dropped by about 40 per cent compared with the previous year, pedestrian counts showed the same trend and, all in all, the project was getting some hostile publicity.

Grosvenor decided to embark on something that is rare in retailing in the United Kingdom—the joint, continuous and comprehensive promotion of a multi-tenanted shopping centre.

As the company puts it, in other words it set out to "sell" Shopping City rather than the individual trades and services provided by it.

To do this it recruited a Manchester-based advertising and public relations company, Barnaby and Tarr, which carried out first a spot survey then a much more detailed and extensive market survey. These formed the basis first for some physical changes, such as method of payment at the car parks and new plans and direction signs within the shopping

area, and second for a full-scale and long-term promotional programme, involving not only the development company but the traders.

A series of special promotional events has been held, with associated publicity over a wide area, and more are now planned jointly by Grosvenor and some of the major trading organizations, with costs being shared.

The fall in Shopping City's activity appears to have been reversed. One clear indication is that a vehicle parking figure of about 528,000 in 1975 compares with 734,000 last year.

Runcorn's Shopping City still has much to do. To the south of the existing development—which itself has

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Happy in the absence of vandals

by Kate Hutchin

Vandalism is generally accepted today as a symptom of grave dissatisfaction among the citizenry, particularly among the younger age group. If that is so then Runcorn New Town, populated largely by former Liverpoolians, is a socially happy, contented place.

It suffers from a negligible amount of vandalism, though in Widnes, just a stone's throw across the Mersey, which has overspill estates full of the same Liverpoolians, vandalism is a big problem.

Mr Ron Turtun, chief executive of the new Halton Borough Council, which since local government reorganisation has included Runcorn, old and new, the old borough of Widnes and a slice of what was formerly the Whiston Rural District Council, admits to being mystified by this situation. He thinks it may be largely because tenants in Runcorn are carefully vetted before being given tenancies. In Widnes they are not.

Though vetting cannot be the only reason for Runcorn's happy state of affairs, it has certainly played its part. The aim of the social development department of the new town corporation in making personal contact with every prospective tenant has been not so much to weed out the undesirable as to tell them all about the new town, to allay any fears about what the newcomers must be a leap in the dark, to welcome them and to help to solve the inevitable personal problems involved in being uprooted.

It was part of the admirably imaginative approach to a basically human problem initiated by Miss Margaret Collins, the new town's first social development officer, whose 30-strong department left no stone unturned in their determination to make newcomers feel at home. That was not an easy task when the first arrivals had to come to terms with a town in the making, in which schools, churches, community centres and other amenities had not yet materialized and a lot had to be taken on trust.

Miss Collins retired, with a well-earned OBE, two years ago, but Mr James Trewett, her successor, carries on her enlightened policy. People like to go to the social development office on the edge of Shopping City, where, in a room rather like a modern hotel lounge, with soft music playing in the background, they are treated with unfailing courtesy by everyone from the receptionists to the senior staff.

Many of the staff live in the new town, so are aware of and understand the prob-

lems which occur. Accordingly, they tend to cope with them while they are still small and manageable. In the matter of vandalism, for instance, it is inevitable that in a new town in which 10,000 trees and 130,000 shrubs have been planted some will be mutilated or uprooted.

When this happens they are immediately replaced, which prevents the damage remaining to encourage others. When a footbridge was defaced with rude drawings they were not merely erased, but quickly replaced by a painting of a scene on the Bridgewater Canal near by.

It is 10 years since the first tenants arrived from Merseyside and many of them are still there. Jill Goodchild, a principal assistant social development officer, says the integration into the new community generally follows a definite pattern.

Three years needed to settle down

"There is what we call the honeymoon period of about six months or a year during which the novelty of a new house, new surroundings, Shopping City and so on excites and delights them. Then comes the problem period. They miss their relatives and friends in Liverpool, they feel lonely, they miss the pattern of urban life they were used to because they all regard coming to Runcorn as 'coming to live in the country'.

This lasts perhaps for another year. In the third year they take root. "Of course they have problems and the economic situation does not help. Quite often we are housing young people who have never lived on their own before, who are not very mature, and who have budgeting as well as psychological problems. But they do not seem afraid of coming to the office and talking to us about them, and we can often give them not only useful advice but practical help."

Schooling, in the early days a problem, when the county education programme could not always catch up with the speed of new house building, is now satisfactory, with one county comprehensive and one Roman Catholic comprehensive in full swing, and a second Roman Catholic one due for completion at the end of 1978.

Medical services are exceptionally good—Runcorn's senior GP in its central health centre is also lecturer in general practice at Liverpool University, and GPs in training there are seconded to the town, so that patients get more than average atten-

tion. Church of England and nonconformist ministers have a team ministry, which works in close consultation with the Roman Catholic priests, so that the spiritual needs of the community are adequately met.

To get a tenant's view of the new town I spoke to Mrs Betty Gardler who, though only 40, may be said to be one of the new town's oldest inhabitants—she was the third person to move into the Halton Brook estate nearly 10 years ago.

"It was a little bit awkward at first," she said, "with the shops a long way away and few of the amenities we now enjoy. But we settled down with our three children. We weren't the kind of family that went out a lot, so we didn't notice the lack of outside entertainment. It must have been hard on couples who like a lot of social life."

"My daughter, who is nearly 19, didn't like it because she missed all her Liverpool friends, but she is married now and happily living in one of the decedent flats. My husband and I liked it so much that four years ago we bought this house in Palace Fields, though my husband, whose firm in Runcorn was taken over, now works in Warrington."

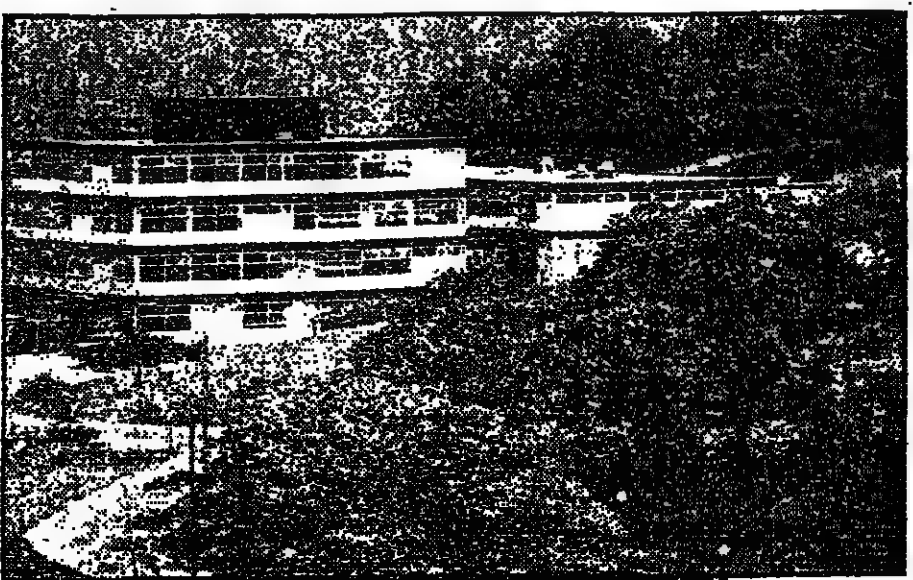
Mrs Gardler herself works in Shopping City as a part-time assistant for Manweb. She finds it an excellent shopping centre—"but why didn't they put some windows in so that you could look out? When you work there it's the same all the year round, you have no idea of what the weather's like outside."

She does not use the unique multi-million pound rapid-transit bus service, which circles the town in a figure-of-eight. "I walk to work and my children walk to school—the bus is too expensive for us to use it regularly."

Mrs Barbara Shaw, aged 33, who lives in Halton Brook with her husband and six children, also finds the buses too expensive. "With six children it is cheaper to go in my husband's car."

The Shaws also came to Runcorn nearly 10 years ago, and still rent their house, though Mrs Shaw would like one day to buy a house there over "but on the outside". Though she regrets leaving Liverpool because it is expensive and time-consuming to visit relatives who still live there, she has few complaints about life in Runcorn and agrees that it is much better for the children. She would not really like to go back, even though her husband, whose job on the Asmoor industrial estate became redundant, now works in Liverpool.

Her biggest grievance is



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Brilliantly placed in four ways

by John Chartres

Since the days of the pack-horse the locations of British industry, and thereby the concentrations of its population, have been determined by communication routes.

The Romans knew a lot about this subject and were good at their site selection. The selection of Runcorn as the site for a new town in the early 1950s was little short of brilliant from this point of view. Runcorn is ideally positioned from the point of view of four forms of transport—road, rail, air and water.

Motorways have taken over from the railways and the canals the role of determining the right places in which to site industry and concentrate population. The North-west "box" of motorways is now certainly the most comprehensive in Britain, and probably the best in any industrial area of Europe. A main north-south and east-west cross lies between Manchester and Liverpool and Runcorn is right alongside the whole system with its own expressway linking the town to the M56.

In its turn the M56 takes traffic to the east on to the M6 north-south artery and on to the M62 trans-Pennine route. To the west it serves such key points as the vast oil-chemical complexes of Stanlow and Ellesmere Port and links up with another motorway (the M53) running into the Mersey west bank ports of Birkenhead and Wallasey.

Thus from the south side of Runcorn one can drive at high speed and without let or hindrance to London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Hull, Bristol and indeed as far as Plymouth.

Road communications to the immediate north have been a little more restricted but a big improvement is in sight when the handsome bow arch bridge across the Mersey, opened by Princess Alexandra in 1961, is widened to take two lanes of traffic in each direction to cope with an estimated flow of the 1980s, of 80,000 vehicles a day.

Extensive improvements to the approach roads on either side of the bridge (the first "free" crossing of the Mersey upstream from its mouth) are nearly complete, too, with an important fly-

over system on the Runcorn side taking traffic straight on to the town's expressway system. From this month onwards sections of this improvement will be opened a stage at a time with the whole scheme scheduled for completion by late summer.

The bridge-widening has been no mean engineering feat. Happily the builders of the 1961 bridge put plenty of spare strength into the main arch structure, which is the longest of its kind in Europe, and it has been possible to widen the roadway without ever closing the bridge to traffic altogether.

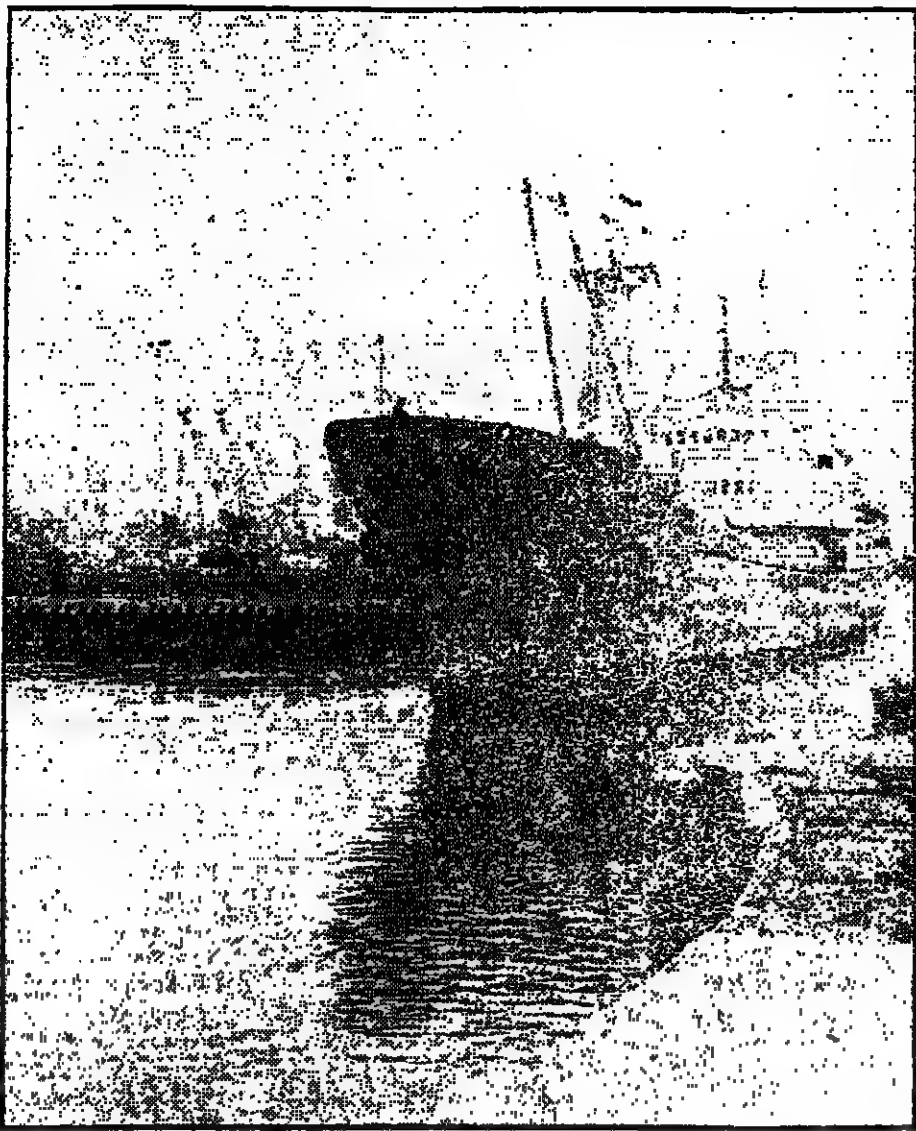
The whole project, made necessary by traffic flows far beyond the expectations of the 1950s, is costing about £15m, a high proportion of this sum going into the approach road works. The 1961 bridge, including property acquisition and rebuilding, cost a little less than £3m.

The Runcorn-Widnes gap has in fact been a challenge to engineers since the early nineteenth century when Telford proposed a 1,000ft suspension bridge. This was not proceeded with (Telford actually used his Runcorn design for his famous and highly successful crossing of the Menai Strait to Anglesey where it still stands as a monument to his skill) and the first crossing was the railway bridge built by the LNWR in 1868.

The first road link between the (then) Lancashire and Cheshire banks of the Mersey consisted of an extraordinary piece of Victorian ingenuity, a 1,000ft transporter bridge opened in 1905 which made 150 journeys a day with passengers and vehicles carried in a cage suspended from overhead cables. It cost £137,553 6s 4d and operated successfully for nearly 60 years.

That far-sighted nobleman the Duke of Bridgewater selected Runcorn as seaward terminal for the canal system he built to transport coal from his mines at Worsley. His docks in the heart of the old town still provide a pleasant recreational point, usually crowded with cruising boats which are now the main users of his system.

The building of the ship canal, which not only linked Manchester with the open sea but "tamed" the awkward tides on the south bank of the Mersey estuary, turned Runcorn into an efficient sea port. It still is, the docks being one of the busiest and



Runcorn Docks, operated by the Port of Manchester, is a busy section of the Manchester Ship Canal. It can handle vessels of up to 3,500 tonnes and has extensive bulk-handling facilities which are used, among other things, for the import of bulk materials for the ceramic and glass-making industries.

most profitable sections of the port of Manchester.

Two airports lie within less than an hour's drive of Runcorn—Manchester Ringway, itself linked to the motorway system, and Liverpool Speke which is even closer, just on the opposite side of the Mersey. Although the latter's long-term future is in some doubt it is a particularly useful airport for cargo, charter and executive aircraft, being far less congested by main airline traffic than Ringway.

The railway bridge first built 109 years ago still provides an important feature of Runcorn's external communications as all main line trains between Liverpool and London stop there, providing an hourly service to the capital for business executives and others.

Leaving the external links on one side, two of the new town's most remarkable features are the expressway and the busway. Both road

systems are laid out in figure-of-eight patterns and are mutually dependent for their success. The expressway carries general traffic at a reasonable speed unhampered by pedestrians, parked vehicles or buses stopping and starting; the busway provides a clear route for public service vehicles which can move at guaranteed frequencies and average speeds.

Both appear to have been entirely successful although the final phases of the expressway system (linked with the bridge-widening and approach roads project) have yet to be completed.

The expressway, some 14 miles long, has been designed to circuit the town's outskirts with inward access to the residential communities and outward access to industrial areas and the regional road system. It is pedestrian-free, is designed as a travelling man's dream. It is also a very relaxing place in which to be a bus driver.

access provided only at specified interchange points.

Short lengths of "district distributor" roads in turn give access to "local distributors". The arrangement of roads in the secondary system is such that traffic is discouraged from moving between community and development units but "ouged" back on to the expressway.

The busway is believed to be the first system of its kind serving a whole town of this size. Covering about 12 miles with the figure-of-eight pattern strategically aligned to serve all the focal points, its presence means that Runcorn residents can step straight out of their houses and know that a bus will arrive at the nearest stop in six minutes at longest, and take them to their destinations at a guaranteed average speed of about 20 mph.

In many ways Runcorn is a travelling man's dream. It is also a very relaxing place in which to be a bus driver.

Defence of life style proves a costly mistake

by Kate Hutchin

Ten years ago Runcorn was a small peninsula on the Cheshire side of the river Mersey, 14 miles from Liverpool and 16 miles from Chester. It had matured with typical English gradualness from its first occupation by the Cangi, a nomadic tribe, in AD 76 to a township of about 25,000 people.

Its ferry across the Mersey to the Lancashire town of Widnes—"per twopenny per person per trip"—had assured it of a minor place in northern folklore, thanks to Stanley Holloway's famous monologue, in which Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom refused to pay more than half fare for their little son, Albert. The transporter bridge which superseded the ferry, and was itself superseded by a modern bridge some years ago, was its other claim to fame of a sort.

It developed commercially in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, when the Bridgewater Canal brought trade and prosperity to the town and a variety of small industries sprang up (its last rammer, for instance, lasted till after the Second World War, but its site is now an ornamental garden). In the depression of the 1930s it suffered badly, with 500 empty houses in the town, but it was saved by ICI-Mond, which turned it into a chemical town, providing at least a third of the population with job security.

In the early 1960s it was a fairly sleepy and contented little urban district, with a new postwar shopping centre in Church Street and a steady, if unspectacular, programme of new housing.

It was a surprise when the Government announced that it had been designated as a new town, in which it would be less than half the total area of Runcorn. By the year 2000 it would have a population of 100,000, mostly drawn from the overcrowded Merseyside conurbation—nearly town-bred Liverpoolians as different from the native, courtiered Runcornians as chalk from cheese.

They were faced with the dilemma experienced by every small township on which it is proposed to graft a new town. Should they defend their little town and struggle to keep its character intact or should they allow

themselves to be swamped by something new, unknown and unimaginable?

Through the chairman of the urban district council declared that the designation of the new town area was "wonderful news... it will ensure our continued prosperity... I hope the townsmen will share a great pleasure", the old Runcornians were up in arms, determined to stick out for their independence. They now realize that decision was a mistake.

The development of a new town which would eventually be four times as big as the old Runcorn meant that old Runcorn would become only a section of the new town. But they confidently hoped that they would become the shopping centre of the new town, which would automatically bring them both prosperity and prestige.

They were horrified when the decision was made to build Shopping City, one of the biggest shopping precincts in Europe, in the new town, at what would be the natural centre, which would also be at the intersection of the new transport system. Old Runcorn was well to the west of this, destined to become just a district, with no hope of a central position.

Worse was to come. The widening of the Runcorn to Widnes bridge across the Mersey and the new rapid transit busway cut through the old town, necessitating the demolition of houses and shops, and creating a spectacle of dereliction which, even if only temporary, was to have a blighting effect, both physically and psychologically, on the old town.

The trouble was that the development board, with its special powers, was only responsible for the new town. Old Runcorn was administered by the urban district council. And while council and corporation argued both householders and traders, uncertain what was going to happen, spent little or nothing on their properties.

A few of the bigger firms, including the Co-operative Wholesale Society, moved up to the new Shopping City. Small traders could not afford the rents there, which were considered exorbitant, and bitterness was felt that no concession was made to encourage local traders to make the move.

The blight on the old town was all the more noticeable as the new town rose, sparkling, very much alive, always in the headlines. It was a dispirited old town that was handed over to the new borough of Halton on the reorganization of local government in 1974. Mr Ron Turton, the borough's chief executive, carries on the story.

"We realized that it was uncertainty about the future that was crippling everybody. The idea had been that at some time a lot of capital investment would be put into the centre. There was to be a leisure and entertainment centre, a sports centre, a swimming pool and much more. But since 1972 we have had less and less money; now we have no money at all for such projects."

Two moves to end uncertainty

"One thing we decided to do, and that was to put an end to the uncertainty. We had to accept that the situation had changed and were going to be a great town centre again, or that the replacement of old houses with beautiful new ones was likely to take place on any scale."

"We did two things. We took away the great question mark that hung over Regent Street, a road of small shops, which did not know whether it was to stay put or be demolished. We decided it should be retained, and that a rapid transit busway should be given the right of way to the place in the town."

"Then we made two residential roads—Water Road and Parker Street—into general improvement areas. These two roads contain 10 per cent of the houses in old Runcorn, and already more than 50 per cent of the tenants have applied for general improvement grants. We as a council have spent £30,000 on roads and outside design—£24,000 of it on landscaping work and greenery."

"At the same time we have sold a huge empty site on Ellesmere Street to the development corporation, which is going to build

about a hundred of some of the available to the new town. It was a cause it makes people are interested in the money with us."

"There is no people are accepted situation with a grace then before. No doubt, then, the bitterness remains."

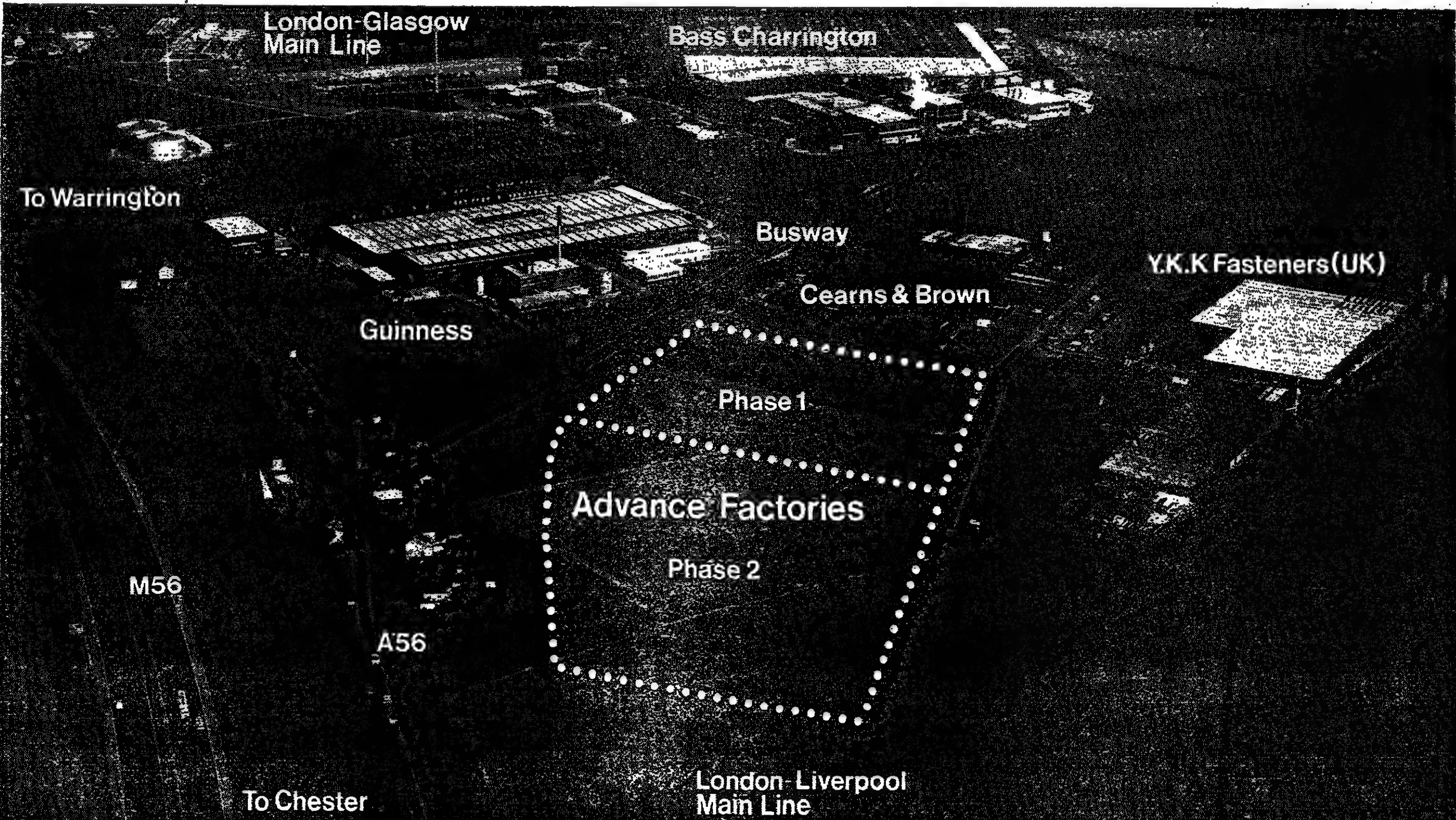
In the words of Reg Eastup, who is old Runcorn all. "People in old Runcorn are much worse off than before the war. We have price of seeing little old town for the name of the made the mistake, the new town—'em instead of jo Now we've left it."

"We have got proper planning, no money to put into operation. Runcorn may be a quess for the new residents."

Mr Turton con depression you our, that though advantages may soon the immediate he Runcorn has much to thank the arrival new town."

"They have a lower rate of unemployment in Widnes", out, "and a much variety of employment in factories, shops, etc, thanks to the tries, offices and brought in by the ment corporation have an express-rapid transit that we would like to see in Widnes still have ICI, but never have hoped a fraction of the investment that has into the place in the years."

He is right, and long-term even they will begin to under they have been I doubt whether persuade most cornians of this, that they have planned against, and the they are realizing that it has been on Ellesmere Street through their own not make them better."



Above: one of Runcorn's Industrial Estates at Whitehouse

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LARGEMENT OF THE EEC

gining of last year the Commission gave a unenthusiastic opinion on the Greek economy was to take the strain of it, and that before as on actual accession it had to be agreed a preparatory period which the Community in Greece undertake important structural

inion was very dis- to the Greek Govern- for political reasons ous to obtain full ip as soon as possi- political reasons led il of Ministers to over- Commission's opinion, egotiation of Greece's has now begun.

he Commission's argu- attracted relatively ation at the time Greece's application, limited on its own, have been considered. Although Greece was the field it was not sediterranean country pply for membership, ed to be considered hole question of the e of the Community; only its geographical major changes in this l to affect its economic ional shape as well, nt was directly o the themes of Mr's report on the 'future development ropan Union', and ve been discussed with it.

here has not been a ussion among heads ent on the subject of, t, in spite of the for- blems which it un- poses. These were summarized by Mr i his keynote speech opan Parliament on "It will make the divergence between es of the Community er. The gap in a GNP between and the United is almost trivial

compared with that between Germany and Portugal, and the effort required to bridge the gap will be correspondingly greater. The demands on Community funds will be substantial, with obvious implications for the Regional and Social funds in particular. Enlargement will also make it harder to improve the Agricultural Policy. (He might have added, however, that it will also make it even more necessary.) "And there is of course the deep concern that the Community might become looser rather than tighter as a consequence of enlargement."

But Mr Crosland went on to say that "the political benefits of enlargement outweigh all the practical difficulties." "By sustaining the fledgling democracies at the most crucial stage in their evolution, we shall protect them against their enemies within and without. In one part of the world at least, we shall be able to say that democracy is a blooming flower and not a fading one.... Enlargement is an investment in the democratic future of Europe."

That is the argument which Mr Karamanlis put so persuasively to the Community's political leaders in 1975 and 1976. That is the argument which Dr Mario Soares is most heavily emphasizing in his current tour of European capitals to prepare for Portugal's formal application to join. That, no doubt, is the argument which a Socialist prime minister will soon be putting in his turn if Spain's general election goes ahead as planned this summer and a government reflecting the result can then be formed. And the British Government at least still considers it an unanswerable argument, clearly, for on Monday night Mr Callaghan assured Dr Soares that his application would have Britain's full support.

It is certainly a difficult argument to resist. There can be little doubt that the need for closer ties with the Community has been a major factor undermining the right-wing dictatorships in Greece and Spain, and stiffening the resistance of

Portugal to the attempt to impose a left-wing dictatorship on it in 1975. To block the process of integration now, when the Spanish and Portuguese economies at any rate are suffering severe strains from both internal and external factors, would clearly increase the danger of political relapse.

It could be argued, however, that to force the pace of integration would be equally dangerous. In the case of Portugal especially it is very difficult to see industry being ready to take the full thrust of European competition even by 1985. The probability is that all three governments will seek, in varying degrees, to secure the economic advantages of membership while postponing its burdens. That is something which we in Britain are not particularly well placed to criticize. But the hard fact cannot be escaped that the more members the Community has of that type, the heavier the burdens will be for those who do bear their full share—and the thinner the jam will have to be spread for those who need help.

The Irish, as the poorest existing member of the Community (with a per capita income actually lower than that of Greece), are perhaps more acutely conscious of this point than we are. There is a sad lack of applicants from the more prosperous northern and central regions of Europe (Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland). If only the Community could make itself attractive to those countries, its general economic prospects would look much healthier.

But even then the sheer number and diversity of member states would make the achievement of an integrated political and economic union less likely. It is hard to see how the price of enlargement can fall to be, in practice if not in theory, either the creation of a "two-tier Europe" or the abandonment of the goal of closer integration. One or other price may well be worth paying, but perhaps we should be clearer in our own minds which it is to be.

The creation of wealth

From Mr James Robertson

Sir, Lord Plowden (Letters, February 11) believes that the important thing for this country, which should take precedence over everything else, is the creation of more wealth, that it is industry and commerce that create this wealth; and that from this wealth will flow new jobs, welfare and education. Most other leading people in industry, politics, trade unions, civil service and the media in Britain today still seem to share this view.

Fortunately, a great many others among us do not. We question the idea of "wealth" as something created by manufacturers of cigarettes and sweets, but not by doctors and commercial lawyers; created by housewives and social workers; created by agriculturists, but not by people working their smallholdings, allotments and gardens; created by advertising agencies, but not by schools; created by the arms trade, but not by the peacepeople. Is it a law of nature that compels us to make more and more things, including many that are harmful or useless, before we can attend to the needs of people?

No, it is not. The idea of wealth as something that has to be created by the "economic" activities of industry and commerce, so that it can then be spent on something quite different called "social" wellbeing, is part of the metaphysics of the industrial age. As that age draws towards its end, one of this country's greatest strengths is that a great number among its people who already have the old metaphysics is out of date.

We, who live in the first industrial country, are now among the first to arrive at the next great turning point in history. We should take heart. In our intuitive wisdom, we are aware of the foundations for the post-industrial future, in spite of the chorus of influential voices like Lord Plowden's that urge us vainly to prolong the industrial past.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ROBERTSON,
7 Villis, W11,
February 14.

Planning and the plight of cities

From Professor W. A. West and Mr David I. Young

Sir, For almost thirty years we in this country have had a system of town and country planning which is the envy of planners abroad and which, with its supporting structure of Industrial Development Certificates and Office Development Permits, is probably the most comprehensive planning system in the Western world.

The stated aims of planning remain as plausible as ever—so much so that it is difficult to convince the ordinary layman that the system has failed on nearly all fronts, and its benefits have been outweighed by its burdens. In particular: it has failed to prevent urban sprawl (as has been graphically shown by Dr Coleman's recent follow-up of the 1933 Stamp survey); it has been a major factor in contributing to the decline of the cities; it has worsened the housing situation; it has been responsible for the dissipation of scarce resources into demonstrably wrong objectives; its *pro tanto* monopoly effect has been a significant element in the inflation of land prices; it has proved, by a lack of quality in our post-war developments, that good architecture seems to vary in inverse proportion to the number of planners.

In brief, the country has suffered from intensive over-planning, often based upon dubious data, such as the myth of the South-East drift and often in pursuit of objectives far from universally accepted (such as the depopulation of our cities) when unimpeded organic development could well have produced infinitely better results, socially, aesthetically and economically. Most of all, our planning system has provided a financial incubus that the country simply cannot afford. We are not referring primarily to the direct costs of the planning machine (in 1974 a total of £150 million at local level plus its mirror image outside) but to the insupportable costs to our whole economy caused by delays, shortages and plain bad decisions. In the United States there has been some reluctance to follow our own land-use planning path on the grounds that strong land-use policies can have a harmful effect on the economy. In this country—there has been no such moderation.

At this moment in time, we have an ideal opportunity to shed the London docklands and other areas of land-use planning which have remained derelict for years. We should open up this eight-and-a-half square miles by freeing it from all planning control. A development corporation should have the whole area vested in it with a brief to provide the appropriate infrastructure and to sell the whole of the rest of the area plot by plot without

any restriction on development other than basic public health and safety requirements.

At the worst, it will give the planners proof of their case. At the best, it could be a starting point for a resurgence in development, in commerce and in industry. Either way, a by-product could be the bringing down of land prices. On the other hand, if nothing is done, the area could continue to decay indefinitely in moratorium.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. WEST,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights,
Reading.
DAVID YOUNG,
Manufacturers Hanover Property Services Ltd,
88 Brook Street, W1,
February 14.

From Professor D. R. Denman

Sir, The present debate on the plight of our inner cities appears to overlook one crucial question: who owns the derelict wasteland? Whether public authority or private landowner, the answer to that question lies at the heart of the matter. Yet where in all the debate is there evidence of any serious consideration or understanding of it?

If the land is publicly owned, let the authority who owns it explain why it is not put to better use—the initiative is with them. If the land is privately owned, is the waste the calculated intention of the owners? This is unlikely. If not, what is preventing the better use of it?

These questions are seldom addressed to the only quarter where the answers can be found—the landowners and the land market. Planning authorities have for so long almost traditionally overlooked the positive role of the private landowners in the decision-making processes.

All the talk of public participation in urban renewal schemes from the Skiffington Report onwards has been calculated to purpose-keep private landowners more or less at arm's length. When we know who they are and why perforce they have to leave their lands derelict, we shall at least know where the root of the maledy lies. If the place of landownership and the operations of the land market had been recognised and taken into account earlier, and not disregarded for ambiguous, indefinable and contradictory community criteria, our cities would not be suffering the rot we so rightly abhor today.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. DENMAN,
Pembroke College,
Cambridge,
February 14.

The power of civil servants

From Mr Kenneth Baker, MP for St Marylebone (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article today (February 15) on the relative power of civil servants and Ministers in the wake of the Haines revelations is perceived and my view correct.

Several socialists have sought refuge in Richard Crossman's seductive argument that Labour Governments fail to achieve their political objectives because they are undermined by a hostile Civil Service and particularly the Bureaucracy in the Treasury. Some Conservatives also believe that there is a mafia, holding its occasional meetings in the Cabinet Office canteen, which really runs the country.

As a Minister in the Civil Service Department 1972-74, I was able to observe daily the relationship between civil servants and their political masters. I have no doubt whatsoever that if Ministers fail to get their way they have only themselves to blame. Some Ministers in any government recognize that they are jolly lucky to have got where they have and as they don't want to change things dramatically they are quite happy to succumb to the bureaucratic embrace.

Others want to change things or leave their "mark", a process which the Treasury are bound to get involved in since it normally involves spending more money. Ministers gain the respect and loyalty of their civil servants if they are prepared to argue their case against the official advice, rarely well. This means real application, and mastery of the subject, and an ability to work long hours.

Ministers who claim that they are not supported by their civil servants or actively betrayed by them in a battle of Whitehall are really reflecting upon their own inability to gain their support. Ministers who were clearly in charge of their Departments, such as Margaret Thatcher at Education, Jim Prior at Agriculture, Peter Carrington at Defence and Willie Whitelaw in very different circumstances in Northern Ireland, all won the ungrudging loyalty of their civil servants and indeed were more effective Ministers and politicians as a result.

The facts, dear Joe Haines, lies not in the civil servants. Yours sincerely,
KENNETH BAKER,
February 15.

Nuclear arms race

From the Chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Sir, Lord Chalfont is less than fair to Henry Kissinger (The Times, February 14). Far from accepting Lord Chalfont's own bellicose advocacy of "strategic superiority", Kissinger argued (in 1975), "One of the questions we have to ask ourselves as a country is what in the present situation is strategic superiority? What do you do with it?"

The hopeful signs coming from Washington are not that disarmament is on the agenda; the increase in defence spending equivalent to the total British arm expenditure is proof enough of that. The big change is that President Carter seems to realize that the risks from nuclear proliferation outweigh the possible advantages of being able to destroy the Soviet Union 20 times, rather than only 10 times, over 50 years. He proposes to stop doing various things (like underground nuclear tests) which the United States no longer needs to do anyway, in the hope that this will discourage other countries treading the same path.

It is good that President Carter places so much emphasis on the need to halt the nuclear arms race. One would have hoped that a former Minister for Disarmament would do the same.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COX,
Eastbourne House,
Bullards Place, E2,
February 14.

Juvenile sentencing

From Mr Maurice Hawker

Sir, Mr A. J. Brayshaw's letter (February 11) and his specific comments on the Children and Young Persons Act 1959 adds nothing to the known position of the Magistrates' Association on the juvenile courts. Contrary to the impression created in his letter there has been a steep rise in the number of juveniles in custodial care, particularly borstals and detention centres in recent years. As the 1959 Act is still only half implemented it is grossly misleading to attribute to it the failure to which Mr Brayshaw refers.

Hopefully Mr Brayshaw is not suggesting in his letter that magistrates can cure the juvenile delinquency problem given the appropriate powers. I suggest that far from granting magistrates more powers serious consideration should be given to further diminishing their powers so far as juvenile sentencing is concerned thereby creating the opportunity for more appropriate community facilities in the knowledge that institutional care of juveniles has limited value for most juvenile offenders.

Yours faithfully,
M. O. HAWKER,
Deputy Director of Social Services, Essex,
Chelmsford Road,
Shenfield,
Essex,
February 12.

Jubilee Hymn

From Dr John S. Andrews

Sir, The basic weakness of the Poet Laureate's jubilee hymn is shared by the following verse from "The Hand, O God, has guided Thy flock from age to age":

God bless our merry England,
God bless our Church and Queen,
God bless our great Archbishop,
The best that's ever in the land.
(W. K. Lowther Clarke, A Hundred Years of Hymns Ancient & Modern, 1960, p. 46).

This was omitted by the 1988 editors of A & M, who no doubt realized that the best hymns are theistic if not Christocentric. Yours faithfully,
JOHN S. ANDREWS,
270 Bowerham Road,
Lancaster.

TO LOSE FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE

as an industrial sit-in by students at School of Economics to the pattern of the months. The work a claim: far from the management they would be only to comply. If they would let them "Profoundly is evidently as his students by the ease in tuition fees eased the disturbance, qually aggrieved, by English 'device' of the increases merely aditions, when gratulations of learning y with them except at to themselves). ased fees are a more ssue at the LSE than or it, has a high pro- graduate students from abroad. ve undergraduates ts from their local upshot is far from ind, the abrupt quad- fees is bound to in- hardship and the at of some cherished t 25,000 students in y will be affected. is small in relation ber of students as a

whole, but the individual consequences will often be severe. Special treatment has been offered for those who have already started courses, and it should be generous.

Foreign students are a more complex problem. In the past it was felt to be part of Britain's imperial obligations to help young people from abroad to study here. It is still desirable that they should come, both from our point of view and theirs, and that some degree of support should be supplied at this end. But as well as being a form of international aid and a means of winning friends overseas, British education is a commodity in keen demand. There is no case for indiscriminate subsidy at a high level when the number of foreign students here has more than doubled in ten years and applications have reached the point where colleges have begun to impose informal quotas.

The present average cost of a course of higher education is about £2,000 a year, and the proposed rates of £650 for foreign undergraduates and £850 for graduates are far more reasonable than the present rates. A few students from poorer countries already have their tuition fees paid by our

Government as overseas aid, a more sensible form of subsidy than charging quarter-price to students coming from countries wealthier than our own and already, perhaps, subsidized from home.

Mrs Shirley Williams announced the higher fees in November (they were only slightly stiffer than proposals her predecessor had made four months earlier), and they will not come into effect until next September. It is not clear why the LSE students were seized with ungovernable indignation just at this moment, though last night's statement by officials of the students' union indicates an element of internal political opportunism. The issue is one that commands a natural sympathy in most students. Demonstrations of this kind have in the past sometimes been effective in winning concessions from a college administration, at the cost of some loss of wider public goodwill. But in Dr Dahrendorf, of course, the students are preaching to the helpless converted. To the public in general, and to the Government whom the students must seek to persuade, disrupting the work of the school must seem the worst way to argue for higher subsidies.

Violence in Ireland

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, Mr David James describes himself as a friend of Ireland" (February 12). It is hard to find evidence of this in his letter.

The Dublin Government, and the overwhelming majority of Irish people, are as appalled as he is (and much more seriously affected) by the violence on both sides, and whether in Ireland or Britain. The violence has been paid to the active co-operation of the Dublin Government in combating it.

Mr James repeats the criticism of Ireland for pursuing the torture case at Strasbourg. Yet this has already had two important outcomes: Britain has admitted that the interrogation methods used by her security forces in Ireland and elsewhere did indeed amount to torture and were thus illegal, and she has accordingly undertaken to review her methods of interrogation. She declines, however, to agree that any of those concerned will be prosecuted.

So far from being the work of outlawed things with negligible public support and no official backing, the investigation was carried out by servants of the Crown, hence the liability of the taxpayer for damages—especially trained by Army personnel who had perfected their techniques in Aden and elsewhere. It is inconceivable that the record exists of their identity. The methods have been clearly estab-

lished as illegal; why then is no legal action contemplated?

There has been naive criticism of the delay since the offences took place. This has been entirely due to Britain's adamant stone-walling.

Mr James refers to the coming trial of eight soldiers over a border infringement as notoriously difficult country. As one who lives within sight of that border I can say there is nothing whatever specially "difficult" about it to anyone with the most elementary knowledge of map reading, and there would be no difficulty at all if the security forces took the minimal trouble—as on any other frontier I have ever known—to mark the border whenever it crosses a road. If there are frequent illegal incursions by fully armed, highly aggressive hordes of the armed forces from one country into another, the surprising aspect is that arrests have been made on only one occasion.

The suggestion made by Mr James that Ireland would now be "well on its way to de facto unity" but for IRA activity from 1969 onwards simply will not bear examination. Until the present troubles, there was never the smallest suggestion, either at Stormont or Westminster, that such unity was the remotest possibility.

Yours, etc.,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
Houses of Lords,
February 13.

Malta and China

From Mr Toni Pellegrini

Sir, I refer to the news item which appeared in The Times of February 11 captioned "Malta look to China" and must observe that your correspondent has taken the opportunity to make some mischief on the side. Instead of expressing satisfaction that the British have been offered to the Government of Malta the use of their knowledge and experience, which the Government of Malta accepted, your correspondent chose to link the initiative of the British residents in Malta with the help which Malta has received and continues to receive from China. The generous assistance given to the people of Malta by the people of China should not be thus deprecated.

Your correspondent well knows that the Government of Malta is all in favour of a mixed economy. If one needs confirmation, one has only to ask De La Rue, Blue Bell (Wranglers' makers) and other transnational firms who have settled in our country during the past few years and are now thriving. Indeed it is only when the national interest so requires or where private enterprise is wanting that the Government invests directly in industry. This is spelt out clearly in Malta's development plan 1973-80.

To increase employment the Government of Malta was helped to no mean extent by the Government and people of China. Already the Chinese have spent more than six million Maltese pounds on the softest imaginable terms to provide much needed know-how and technological assistance that these new industries will not be an excuse for a Chinese presence, the Chinese project leaders have left long before some of these industries have reached their full development.

The Chinese have helped and are helping to extend ship repair facilities on which 600 construction workers are now employed, as well as to set up six factories now employing over 600 people, and these

Treasure Island

From Mr Ernest McEwe

Sir, Writing of the Queen's visit to Western Samoa as part of her Jubilee tour, your correspondent Roger Bernhard says (February 9) that "Asia is thought to have been the scene of Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island". I cannot believe that anyone who knows anything about Stevenson, Treasure Island or Western Samoa can seriously believe this to be the case.

Stevenson himself in a letter to his friend Sidney Colvin in 1884 wrote: "I came out of Kingsley's At Last where I got the Dead Man's Chest—and that was the seed—and out of the great Captain Johnson's History of Notorious Pirates. The scenery is Californian in part, and in part chic." He told an interviewer from the Sydney Morning Herald in 1890: "Treasure Island is not in the Pacific. In fact, I only wish myself that I knew where it was. . . . However, it is generally supposed to be in the West Indies."

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST MCEWE,
6 Abercorn Road,
Sarnumore,
Middlesex,
February 10.

A plea for the encore

From Mrs H. C. Harley

Sir, Mr Alex Aiswaks (The Times, February 12) is unfortunate. At a recent concert in the Sheldonian Theatre, Mr Paul Tortelier of Paris gave three encores (and talked to his delighted audience in English).

There are of course some occasions, eg a performance of Beethoven's last piano sonata in C min op 111, after which any encore would seem frivolous and impertinent.

Literary insularity

From Mr Alan Brownjohn

Sir, Bernard Levin (February 8) is harsh about some recent Penguin Classics. I suppose I don't have to possess Birds Through a Ceiling of Alabaster to be compelled to devour Mr Levin with my breakfast. But both things happen to be the case, so I should like to recommend your readers not to be put off these classics of Abbasid verse by Mr Levin's strictures. Sent back to them by his article, I found what I had recalled: elegant and beautifully judged translations of poems both simple and profound, a small revelation to one ignorant of the literary heritage drawn upon to make the selection, and thus thoroughly fulfilling the purpose of the series.

Yours, etc.,
ALAN BROWNJOHN,
2 Belsize Park, NW3.

Incomes policy

From Lord Colclough

Sir, Your leading article of February 11 came to the sound conclusion that a permanent rigid incomes policy is impracticable in the long run. Though it is by no means clear how we can implement that conclusion without disaster. It is, therefore, not surprising that many people are showing their opposition to a continuation of the present right policy.

In the next phase, some want greater flexibility to reward skill, experience and hard work, within agreed and clearly defined overall percentage increase which will be consistent with greater incentives and reducing the rate of inflation. Others advocate an immediate return to "free collective bargaining", presumably leading to substantial pay rises for virtually everyone and a return to the disastrous conditions of 1974.

Those who support this latter policy seem to me to be under a strong obligation to explain more clearly what their objectives are, and how they expect to achieve them. Is it their policy to have no agreed limit of any kind to pay increases? If so, do they accept

Research

From Rowan

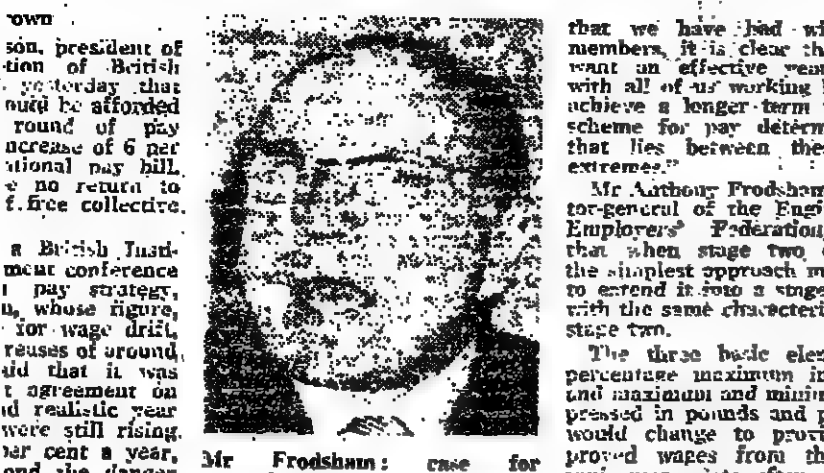
an and reasoned article on the Cruelty to Animals. Hugh Jenkins' mention of introducing a change of the licensing of animal experiments is not necessary to legislate to achieve it in some areas new could be virtually imply (as, for example, enforce the use of after-laboratory administrative id be more than achieve, the necessary itude and outlook. le, we consider that progress would result nine measures. ne Office should insist plicants for licences use on the use of labo- and the non-sentient before they start ex- id result in both vivid techniques as cell cul- pter simulation, but more efficient research knowledge of the sys- ch they are working training in statistical ists.

One Office should ter control over the xperiments that are nder licence by requir- ports of the research e carried out in or- der. These reports should outline of the ques- investigated and the n answer together, sum of why the par- being used is must be true that this ore better work and- cing for the research it is by no means e since far too much e carried out with- uly planned. There e available for pub-

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Chief puts 6pc rise t on wages bill and s out free bargaining



Mr Frodsham: case for extension.

Mr Anthony Frodsham, director-general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, said that when stage two expired the simplest approach might be to extend it to a stage 2a, with the same characteristics as stage two.

The three basic elements—percentage maximum increase, and maximum and minimum—would change to provide improved wages from the first anniversary date after August.

In a separate paper Mr Frodsham explained that the basis for the calculation would be the wages ruling at the end of stage one.

For example, the minimum would be increased to help the lower end; the percentage of 5 would be increased to a new level, taking into account acceptable inflation levels, and the maximum should be substantially raised—perhaps to 120 per cent—or better still abolished altogether.

This formula, Mr Frodsham said, would address a substantial part of the injustices of stage two, although it would by no means restore differentials to levels considered to be excessive compressed only three years ago.

Looking further ahead, he suggested that lessons might be learnt from the Russian system, where each industry had around six or seven pay grades. Pay levels were determined centrally, differentials between the grades being established on a clear and rational basis.

But the old form of free collective bargaining would no longer do it. It was no longer a matter of collective bargaining in the present circumstances, Lord Watkinson said.

"So we shall have to do better than that. Pay restraint of the present restrictive kind cannot continue much longer because it builds a dangerous dam which one day bursts with disastrous consequences."

In the many consultations

Silence on advances to Chrysler

By Maurice Corbin
Industrial Editor

Chrysler UK has begun drawing on a £28m loan from public funds but the Government is refusing to state the amount of advances it has made. The company has already received £30m in grants towards losses made in 1976 during its agreed reorganisation programme.

Part of the Government's maximum commitment in helping Chrysler UK, put at £162.5m up to and including 1979, was provision for a £28m unsecured loan guaranteed by the American parent, Chrysler Corporation, for capital development up to the end of 1977.

Certain advances have now been made towards the "Strike, Lawwood and Truck Plan" covering a new improved Avenger to be produced by this summer and a new small conventional drive car to be introduced this year, and towards a new van, truck planned for 1978.

However, Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said: "For confidentiality reasons, I am not prepared to discuss the amount of these advances."

This refusal to say how much taxpayer funds have been provided is bound to surprise MPs anxious to monitor progress on the Chrysler rescue scheme. They were originally given the fullest details of proposed aid, including sight of the legal agreements.

There is already some discontent at the confusion over the Government's ability to hold the Government accountable for provision of public funds to Chrysler UK via the National Enterprise Board.

China ships \$350m of bullion to Britain

China shipped more than 80 tonnes of gold valued at over \$350m (about £200m) to Britain last year, one of its largest bullion shipments to the West identified for a considerable time, official British bullion statistics show.

The size of the consignment is causing much interest among Western banks involved in East-West trade, on the basis that it could represent a convertible currency operation by China to assist a new drive for industrialisation.

The United Kingdom customs figures show that China shipped 80,797 kilograms of gold valued at £205.3m to this country in December, its only bullion shipment to Britain last year.

Chinese trading activity in both gold and silver in the West is not rare, although the size of its December operation is causing special interest.

China was a steady and substantial net buyer of gold in the 1960s and during the currency instability in the West from 1971 onwards which resulted in devaluations of the main two global reserve currencies, the dollar and sterling.

The British figures show only the physical movement of gold and silver, but it will be disposed of through the London Gold Market, sources noted.

There is not yet conclusive evidence that all the gold has been sold, although Chinese buying was reported in Europe towards the end of 1976.

Some London bankers with East-West trade links suggest China may be preparing to re-launch its five-year plan to intensify the country's industrialisation.

Proceeds from gold sales are apparently not needed for normal balance of payments purposes because China posted a trade surplus of more than \$500m in 1976, the bankers added.

The estimated surplus, the first in three years, is based on calculations by the Japanese external trade organisation, Jetro.

China's five-year plan, held up for at least two years because of the political instability, may be resumed in 1977/78, the bankers suggested. Extensive imports of Western capital equipment and expertise will be needed.

Other Western bankers believe this latest gold shipment provides evidence of the resurgence of China's foreign monetary strategy.

They think the consignment may reflect defensive action to protect China's trade position from deterioration caused by the earthquake in the coal-mining and industrial region of Tangshan last summer.

Some bankers added that it cannot be entirely discounted that the gold may have been used primarily as collateral for dollar and other currency loans in the West.

Bank statement: A spokesman for the Bank of England said yesterday that it knew of the gold shipment, but was not directly involved in the transaction. It was likely that the gold would be sold on the bullion markets.

However, the fact that it had been physically shipped to Britain did not mean that the gold would be sold in London. Britain might simply be a convenient place for the consignment to be held pending ultimate delivery.

But one-day strike planned yland over pay restraint

organized return to free collective bargaining.

At a press conference later, Mr Derek Robinson, the committee's chairman, asked why there would not be a secret ballot on the strike call, replying: "You do it your way and we do it ours."

He admitted that it could lead to a "free-for-all", but said that if the Government did not accept freedom from pay restraints in August, car workers would feel equally free to go ahead with strike action.

Questioned about the effect of further strike action on a British Leyland already at a near standstill with more than 21,000 workers idle, he said: "If we can break down the walls of Jericho on more pay restraint, we can settle our own problems inside British Leyland."

He said flat-rate increases and the absence of bonus incentives had created differentials and were to blame for most current conflicts in Leyland. The feeling was so explosive

Swift rally by pound and shares

By David Mott

Sterling and shares made a sharp recovery yesterday from Monday's losses, with the FT index gaining almost 40 points and the pound closing three-quarters of a cent up at \$1.7045.

On the stock market most dealers were expecting a rally, but the start of the day would have settled for two or three points on the index. In the event it closed 3.8 ahead at 376.1, recouping two-thirds of the previous day's loss.

The closing gold price was supplemented by a fairly solid demand at the lower levels in the pre-lunch session, but the interest dwindled in the afternoon.

In the ill-fated market the stronger performance of sterling was an additional help and gains of up to £1 were scored throughout the range. Short-dated stocks ended between one-half and a full point better while "longs" were confined to a narrow band between three-quarters and £1 ahead.

Sterling's rise moved its effective depreciation against a basket of other currencies from 43.6 per cent to 43.4 per cent.

Some of the gain came from the attitudes of the authorities, which the market also responded favourably to a belief that the trade unions might be more willing to accept a continuation of some form of pay restraint than recent speeches had suggested.

Higher financial pledge sought for dependencies

By Our Political Correspondent

An increase from £45m to £50m for financial guarantees to the Asian Development Bank to cover obligations incurred by the Solomon Islands, Hong Kong and the Gilbert Islands, is being sought by the Government through an Order in the House of Commons.

Mr John Tomlinson, parliamentary secretary, Ministry of Overseas Development, explained to a Commons Standing Committee yesterday that existing guarantees of £37m covered outstanding subscriptions to the bank of the three dependencies, together with loans to a water desalination plant and a sewage treatment scheme.

Also involved are loans to the Gilbert Islands for building a causeway to link two islands and to the Solomon Islands for a beef cattle development project.

The purpose was to cover further commitments. In the pipeline was a loan of £12m for a Hongkong housing project, and the bank had in mind loans to the Solomon Islands totalling over £4m.

Bank Governor advises longer-term borrowing for the finance houses

By Our Financial Staff

Need for finance houses to protect themselves against fluctuating interest rates by lengthening the term of their liabilities and by exploring the possibilities of variable rate structures was emphasised at the annual dinner of the Finance Houses Association last night by both Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, and Mr Richard Barnes, chairman of the FHA.

The Governor pointed out that the average length of finance houses' assets "is perhaps 18 months for consumer credit and possibly longer for industrial lending, whereas the average length of deposits is probably less than six months."

Given the much greater fluctuations in interest rates, the houses would be less exposed to sharp change in financial conditions "if it were possible to obtain somewhat longer term funds."

Since interest rates—as we have recently seen—can go down as well as up, Mr Richardson went on, "variable rate lending can have attractions for borrowers as well as lenders."

Industry maintains its production impetus

By David Blake

Industrial production in the United Kingdom during the final months of 1976 maintained the momentum of activity it reached in the autumn, according to figures released yesterday.

This all-industries index of production stood at 102.8 in December, marginally down on the November level of 103.1 because of the Christmas holidays.

For the last quarter as a whole, however, the all-industries index stood 1.4 per cent above its third-quarter level. In manufacturing industries, the index was 0.7 per cent up during the final quarter compared with the previous three months.

The figures released yesterday were provisional, and subject to revision, but they do show that during the latter part of 1976 the industrial sector recovered strongly from the setback experienced during the summer.

During the final quarter the index rose 3.2 per cent on the previous three-month period. Intermediate goods are mainly products such as fuels and chemicals.

Other sectors performed less well. Production declined in the investment goods sector by 0.3 per cent, while in consumer goods the index rose 0.8 per cent during the final quarter, though mainly because the third-quarter figure was depressed by low August output.

Among industrial groups the most successful performers were mining and quarrying (up 7.2 per cent in the final quarter) and gas, electricity and water, up 6.2 per cent. The biggest drop was recorded by food, drink and tobacco, which fell 2.3 per cent.

Thus, the final picture which emerges is that as the year ended industrial production was running higher than during the summer months, but only slightly. Indeed, in 1976, the index ended the year only 2.8 per cent higher than it was in 1975.

Just how fast production was expanding at the end of the year is not clear from yesterday's figures.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers of industrial production in December, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1970=100):

	All industries	Manufacturing
1976 Q1	101.7	106.1
Q2	100.3	100.5
Q3	99.8	99.7
Q4	100.4	100.4
1976 Q1	102.4	102.0
Q2	102.4	103.5
Q3	101.5	103.4
Q4	102.8	104.2
1975		
September	100.0	100.1
October	100.8	100.7
November	100.8	100.9
December	99.9	99.8
1976		
September	102.4	104.2
October	102.8	104.6
November	103.1	104.5
December	102.8	103.2

revised
provisional

quarter) and gas, electricity and water, up 6.2 per cent. The biggest drop was recorded by food, drink and tobacco, which fell 2.3 per cent.

Thus, the final picture which emerges is that as the year ended industrial production was running higher than during the summer months, but only slightly. Indeed, in 1976, the index ended the year only 2.8 per cent higher than it was in 1975.

Just how fast production was expanding at the end of the year is not clear from yesterday's figures.

Hopes rise for Massey plant peace

By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

There were hopes last night that the eight-week-old strike at Massey-Ferguson's Coventry tractor plant might be settled soon.

The first significant breakthrough in the deadlocked dispute, which has so far cost £55m worth of lost production, came after a day-long meeting in London between management and union officials.

Both sides refused to disclose what was agreed at the meeting, but hinted that the gap had narrowed and this might lead to further negotiations.

Among those taking part were Mr Philip Forster, Coventry district official of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, who yesterday met members of the strike committee representing the 1,150 assembly workers who walked out on December 22.

It is understood that he briefed them on the outcome of the talks, and suggested that a meeting of workers should be called later in the week.

The dispute has made official a fortnight ago by the AUEW, which has accused the company of a "lock-out" in contravention of the agreed disputes procedure. The main stumbling block to negotiations has been management's insistence that the strikers should first return to work and meet the agreed target of 48 tractors per shift.

Last night the company refused to indicate if it was now prepared to drop or amend this condition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ELECTION OF ONE SPECIAL MEMBER AND FOUR REGIONAL MEMBERS TO THE MILK MARKETING BOARD—1977

The Milk Marketing Board hereby announces as follows:

1. The Board have determined the retirement date for 1977 as midnight on Thursday, 14 July 1977.
2. One Special Member of the Board and one Regional Member for each of North-Western, South Wales, Southern and Mid-Western regions have to be elected.
3. The Board are prepared to receive nominations of candidates for these elections. Such nominations must be received by the Board at the Board's offices at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 April 1977.
4. Every person so nominated as a candidate for election as a Special or Regional Member of the Board must deposit with the Secretary of the Board not later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 April 1977 the sum of £2,000 in legal tender.
5. No person nominated to be elected as a Special Member of the Board unless he or she has been nominated as a candidate for election as a Regional Member at the same time.
6. A candidate may withdraw from his or her candidature by a written notice to that effect provided it is delivered at the offices of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 6 p.m. on Friday, 15 April 1977.
7. Any election literature issued by or on behalf of a candidate should bear the name and address of the person issuing it and the name of the candidate on whose behalf it is issued.

NOTE: Candidates in the Special Member election of which notice is given in this notice are interested to know that the Board have agreed to offer each properly nominated candidate (if more than one) the opportunity for a 1,000 word election address, prepared by the candidate and reproduced by the Board to be distributed with the voting papers to all producers at a cost to each candidate of £500. Candidates who wish to avail themselves of this service must submit a copy to the Secretary of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than the end of £250 are received by him not later than 18 April 1977. If advance notice of an intention to make use of this service can be given it will be administratively most helpful.

The Board will, on request, continue to provide candidates for any of the elections of which notice is given in this notice with copies of the notices appearing in the Board's Register of Producers, or any part thereof, at the rate of 25p per 1,000 copies supplied.

te threatens Fiesta

of the new Fiesta by Ford, Dagenham threatened last to be dismissed of a worker for an in to move to a colleagues on the shift did not work in 300 agreed to it might. The jobs of could be threatened

Citibank predicts \$1,000m surplus for US economy

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Feb 15

A \$2,300m (about £1,353m) surplus in the United States balance of payments on current account in 1977 is likely to produce a surplus of about \$1,000m, even though the trade deficit may widen by about \$900m to at least \$10,500m, according to economists at Citibank in New York.

These forecasts are consistent with—although substantially more detailed than—predictions that have been made by American government economists. The predictions, published in Citibank's *Economic Week* reported today, are based on the widely held assumption that the American economy will expand by about 5 per cent in real terms this year.

The most controversial aspect of today's predictions centres on imports. The economists forecast a 12 per cent rise, after a 27 per cent gain last year. This assumes a much slower rate of oil import growth (these rose from \$26,500m to \$34,600m in 1976), partly based on expectations that domestic oil output will rise as oil starts to flow through the Alaskan pipeline in the second half of 1977.

Oil imports are currently running at a record rate and any further price increases, together with the high possibility of some delay in the start of Alaskan production, could seriously jeopardize the Citibank forecasts.

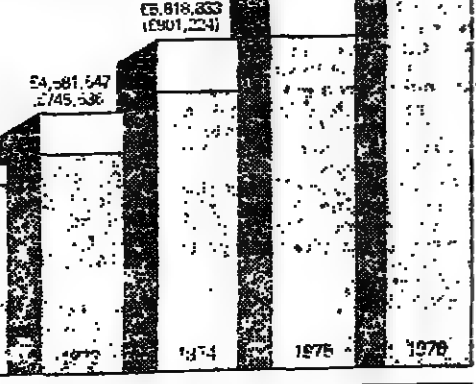
Citibank predicts that exports will rise by 12 per cent in 1977, after a 7 per cent gain in 1976. This increase will partly be accounted for by the general economic recovery expected in the major industrial countries. The economists also note that "many of the import-competing developing countries, after a year or more of severe import restraint, are now in a position to resume import growth."

Thermal Syndicate Ltd.

Neptune Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 6DG.

ier steady with 1976 with ilient prospects he future"

SR. JOHN A. GRIFFITH, Chairman.



	1976	1975
Turnover	£3,903,860	£3,928,357
Profit before taxation	£1,608,649	£951,385
Profit after taxation	£825,160	£512,703
Dividend per share (net)	6.0p	2.51p
Dividend per share	16.24p	8.24p

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
As News 11p to 12p	Merries H 11p to 12p
As Part Cent 4p to 11p	Rand Select 10p to 12p
Burdys Bank 10p to 24p	Shell 10p to 12p
Beecham 3p to 38p	Stanley E 11p to 12p
EMI 5p to 20p	Trieste 10p to 12p
GEC 7p to 15p	Tube Invest 12p to 13p
GKN 11p to 30p	Union Discount 10p to 25p
Hawker Sid 5p to 49p	Unilever 12p to 14p
Imp Chem Ind 5p to 12p	Vickers 12p to 14p
Hayes Bank 15p to 20p	

Falls		
E Fogarty	5p to 83p	Emmerson
Hunting Assoc	4p to 94p	Selection
Lds Pru Invest	4p to 46p	Summers
Maynards	4p to 66p.	Walker J

Equities staged a strong rally. Citi-edged stocks gained up to £1. The "effective depreciation" rate was 43.4 per cent. Gold lost 50 cents an ounce to \$135.875.

\$135,875.

On other pages

Business appointments	20	Letters
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THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Australia \$ 1.50	Belgium Sfr 28.25
Austria Sch 30.25	Canada \$ 1.79
Belgium Sfr 28.25	Denmark Kr 16.33
Canada \$ 1.79	Finland Mkt 6.78
Denmark Kr 16.33	France Fr 6.57
Finland Mkt 6.78	Germany DM 4.23
France Fr 6.57	Greece Dr 67.75
Germany DM 4.23	Hong Kong \$ 8.20
Greece Dr 67.75	Italy L 1570.00
Hong Kong \$ 8.20	Netherlands Gld 4.41
Italy L 1570.00	Norway Kr 9.22
Netherlands Gld 4.41	Portugal Esc 58.00
Norway Kr 9.22	Spain Pes 120.50
Portugal Esc 58.00	Sweden Kr 7.47
Spain Pes 120.50	Switzerland Fr 1.41
Sweden Kr 7.47	US \$ 1.74
Switzerland Fr 1.41	Yugoslavia Dnr 34.50
US \$ 1.74	
Yugoslavia Dnr 34.50	

Bank of England: 157.94 + 3.87
The FT index: 376.1 + 3.8

Commodities: Coffee prices reached new highs. Rubber's index was at 1627.2 (previous 1621.7). Reports pages 28 and 21.

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Six withhold data on low African pay inquiry

By Patricia Tisdall
Six British companies who for various reasons have declined to publish information about the wages and conditions of their African employees were named yesterday by the Department of Trade.

The companies are among 320 with affiliates in South Africa which were asked to give details of their employees' wages and conditions in a survey by the Department of Trade.

According to Mr. Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday, the companies concerned have had a year in which to act on the request. He hoped that the six which so far had declined would "reconsider their position".

Of the remainder, also named

by the Department of Trade, 160 have published information or are making it available to the public. The remaining 160 have supplied it to the Department of Trade in confidence. These are Barton and Sons, tubing manufacturers and engineers, with two subsidiaries at Boksburg, in South Africa; Exchem Holdings, makers of explosives and chemicals, and Crown House, which in 1969 acquired an electrical engineer-

ing and contracting operation known as Wheeler Martin Pty. Mr. Patrick Edge-Parrington, chairman of Crown House, said last night that the company had given the Department of Trade permission to publish the information but "we rather object to being listed on by the Government" to publish it ourselves since the details relate to only one class of employee. Two of the six companies, C. & J. Clark, makers of Clark's shoes, and Thomas French and Sons, which manufacture Rufflette curtain and furnishing accessories, have told the Department that they are prepared to make some information available conditionally.

One, Hickson and Welch (Holdings), has evidently supplied no information at all. This company, a chemicals and timber products group based in Castleford, Yorkshire, would make no comment.

The company has two listed subsidiaries in South Africa, Hickson's Chemical Co. at Roodepoort, manufacturing inorganic chemicals, and Hickson's Timber Preservation, a timber products maker. African interests last year accounted for nearly 7 per cent of Hickson and Welch's total turnover.

In guidelines laid down in a White Paper published in 1974, companies with South African subsidiaries are asked to state the number of Africans in the lowest paid grades they employ,

including wages in total rand and hours worked per month.

They are also asked to show the proximity of the wage rates to local poverty and starvation levels, and the timeliness of improving them.

The companies are also expected to describe the opportunities for advancement for Africans; development for collective bargaining and how wages are determined.

They are expected to give details of existing channels of consultation on wages and working conditions and to share the results of such arrangements. They are also asked to give the names of any African trade unions which they recognize and any employers' associations links.

UK ship orders shrink by 1m tons after highest output for 22 years

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent
British shipbuilding order books shrank by more than one million tons in the final three months of 1976, while the industry's output for the year rose to its highest levels for more than 20 years.

The United Kingdom and Japan suffered the largest order-book reductions among the main shipbuilding nations in the final quarter. Britain's decline was influenced by the cancellation of tanker orders, placed originally by Maritime Fruit Carriers, according to year-end returns published last night by Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

The industry's order book stands at 2,945,000 tons gross,

the seventh largest total in the world, but sufficient to provide employment for only about two years.

But within the overall total, there are a number of yards where the industry which desperately needs fresh work in the next few months if redundancies are to be averted.

Latest returns underline the deepening crisis in world shipbuilding. The world order book of 55.3 million tons is at its lowest for eight years and the eleventh successive reduction since the record level of 133.4 million tons was reached in March, 1974.

More significantly, 90 per cent of the present ships on order are due to be delivered before the end of next year.

During 1976 shipyards picked up a total of 13 million tons gross of new orders. This is the level expected between now and 1980 which has led to discussions between European and Japanese shipbuilders on measures to cope with the serious overcapacity. Ironically, United Kingdom production surged forward from historic levels last year, rising to 1,347 million tons launched—the highest since 1955.

Japan's shipyards, which suffered a cut of more than two million tons in the total order book in the final three months of last year, held orders for 18.2 million tons gross—six times the United Kingdom industry's backlog.

Leyland crisis threat to investment plans

By R. W. Shakespeare
With more than 21,000 workers idle in its vehicle plants, British Leyland appears to be facing a steady worsening of its most serious crisis for many months, involving production losses since the company went to the Government for financial help.

Indeed, with 11 of its 18 car ranges out of production and fresh problems starting to take their toll in the normally profitable truck section, Leyland could be forced to reconsider some big investment and reorganization plans.

The Castle Bromwich body pressing complex in the Midlands is the worst trouble spot with 1,300 workers on strike and a further 3,000 laid off. All production is halted.

Shortage of car body shells and other pressed components from Castle Bromwich is having

a disastrous effect on assembly centres. Jaguar production at Coventry is stopped with nearly 2,000 workers laid off.

A further 2,700 men have been sent home from the Mini assembly line at Longbridge. Rover 3500 production at Solihull is halted, and at Cowley, Oxford, which is hit by the Castle Bromwich dispute and an internal strike by maintenance engineers, Mass Princess and Marina production is at a standstill with 3,500 workers laid off.

Cowley also has a continuing problem in its central spares department, where 60 men are on strike and a further 650 are laid off.

The Triumph plant at Coventry is at a standstill because of a strike by 350 paint shop men, with production of Dolomite, Stag, Spitfire and Triumph 2000 cars halted and 3,500 workers made idle.

VW importers persist in move to Milton Keynes

By Edward Townsend
Volkswagen (GB) yesterday announced plans to proceed with a £7.5m investment at Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire despite government pressure to go to a development area and although the company has yet to be granted an office development permit.

The company intends to build a centralized parts warehouse and headquarters complex on a 23-acre site at the new town employing 500 people. It is the largest project to be undertaken by the British company.

Volkswagen executives met Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment last week to discuss the project and a spokesman for the company said it was confident the Government recognized the

factors which led to Volkswagen's insistence on Milton Keynes.

A decision on the development permit is expected next week, and the company expects no difficulty in obtaining local authority planning permission.

The Government had pressed the company to consider Runcom and the London docks for sites, with the prospect of financial assistance from public funds, but neither area met the company's need for a place in the centre of the country close to motorways.

Volkswagen also stressed that it needed a central site for its attempt to persuade a large number of employees from its five scattered regional warehouses to move to the new headquarters.

Westinghouse nuclear pact with Italians soon

From John Earle
Negotiations are nearing conclusion for Westinghouse to reduce its 51 per cent controlling share in two Italian companies in the nuclear power field, Sopren and Coren. The Italian minority partners in each case are Fiat and Breda Termomeccanica, which is part of the state-owned Finmeccanica group.

Sopren, which has the Westinghouse licence for pressurized water reactors, will be responsible for the provision of two plants for Enel, the electricity board, in the Molise region, but its programme is blocked by regional government opposition on environmental grounds.

Coren is a small company which provides fuel for the existing Turin Vercellese nuclear power plant. When the negotiations are concluded, it is expected that Westinghouse's shareholding will be taken over by ENI, which, under the Government's energy policy, has responsibility in the state sector for nuclear fuel.

EEC criticizes companies for paying fines in lire

Luxembourg, Feb 15—Nine European companies convicted of breaking EEC rules on free competition in 1972, should not have paid their fines in Italian lire to take advantage of exchange rate changes, Mr. Jean-Pierre Warner, the European Court of Justice's Advocate General, said here today.

He told the court he supported the EEC Commission's view that the fines should have been paid in the national currencies of the companies concerned.

Mr. Warner argued that if the Commission or the court fined a company, it actually quantified the fine on the basis of prevailing currency rates in member states where the fines must be executed by local court authorities.

The amounts are only expressed in the unit of account, as this is the rule under the Rome Treaty, he said.

"I can see nothing to preclude the Commission, if it thinks fit, from demanding payment in any other currency," Mr. Warner told the judges,

"but the Commission cannot be bound to accept payment in any currency at a rate other than that of date of payment", he added.

The Advocate General's opinion on the case does not prejudice any decision by the court, but it normally indicates what line the court is likely to take in passing judgment.

Mr. Warner gave his opinion on the case brought before the court in connection with nine sugar companies in the Community which had been fined a total of 1.59 million units of account on December 16 for violating anti-trust rules.

Six West German, French, Dutch and Belgian companies chose to pay their fines in lire rather than in their stronger national currencies.

The Commission claimed the six companies had not fully paid their fines.

The companies, noting that the lire had fallen more than any other European currency, paid the fines in the unit of account equivalent in lire, thus effectively cutting the cost by some 45 per cent.

Engineering staff merger

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
The Engineering Staff Association of the Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company of Chippendale, Wiltshire, is to merge with the Electrical Power Engineers Association. The amalgamation takes effect from April 1.

In a 77 per cent poll, its mem-

bers voted 131 to four to transfer the association's engagements to the EPEA, which is now recruiting professional engineers in the private sector of industry following the Government's energy policy, talks with its rival, the Technical and Supervisory Staff Section of the AUEW.

According to a Fiat spokesman, Westinghouse is ready to cede control of these companies.

Lloyds Bank Group now in Dubai.

Lloyds Bank International are pleased to announce the opening of their branch in Dubai.

The new branch provides a full range of banking services and is responsible for the development of all aspects of the international business of the Lloyds Bank Group in the United Arab Emirates. In conjunction with our branch already established in Bahrain, this enables Lloyds Bank International to play an active role in the financial growth of this important region.

LBI has recently arranged a £202.4 million medium-term sterling export credit to finance U.K. capital goods and services for the construction of an aluminium smelter complex at Jebel Ali, Dubai.

The Lloyds Bank Group already has branches and offices throughout Western Europe and Latin America in addition to a strong presence in the Pacific Basin and the United States.

Manager: M.K. Atkinson,
P.O. Box 3760, Dubai,
United Arab Emirates. Telephone 24151.

LLOYDS BANK INTERNATIONAL
40/66 Queen Victoria St., London EC4P 4EL. Tel: 01-248 9822
A member of the Lloyds Bank Group

Fellow subsidiaries of the Lloyds Bank Group:
Lloyds Bank California, The National Bank of New Zealand.

LBI, the Bank of London & South America and their subsidiaries have offices in: Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Guatemala, Guernsey, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Jersey, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Uruguay, Venezuela.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bullock report needs cool and calm consideration

From the Bishop of Worcester
Sir, The Industrial Committee, of which I am chairman, has given some consideration to the contents of the Bullock report, the reactions to it from unions and management and other views expressed in the press. In the light of this discussion, I would like to make the following points:

1. It is consistent with the Christian vision that society should develop in such a way that each person can exercise his God-given ability to make choices, to take responsibility and to share in shaping his environment. We believe that employees have a stake in their companies which is at least as significant as that of the shareholders and that this should be recognized both by law and by the urgent extension of opportunities for them to share in decision-making at all levels including the highest.

2. There is a real danger that, in the heat of debate about methods, the importance of reaching agreement on the fundamental principle of genuinely shared decision-making will be forgotten. We would hope that the end itself will not be lost in the welter of disagreement about the means.

3. The 100 largest manufacturing enterprises, we read in

the report, produced 40 per cent of the total net output in 1971, compared with only 25 per cent in 1953. This growing concentration of power in the hands of so few emphasizes for us the importance of sharing it properly. The tendency of power to corrupt is fully acknowledged in the Christian doctrine of man. Power in the hands of one group needs to be properly balanced by equivalent power in the hands of others if we are to approach justice in society.

4. We read also, that around 70 per cent of employees in enterprises affected by the Bullock proposals are, in fact, members of unions. It is our hope that it will be widely and willingly recognized that the obvious bodies to take greater responsibility in balancing the power of the larger employers are the trade unions and that this should be enabled through appropriate legislation.

5. Law, however, that is not tolerable to the majority of those affected is bad law, as the history of the 1971 Industrial Relations Act amply showed. We believe that legislation should not be introduced when it is known that there is such opposition from both sides as to make the proposals unwor-

able and to prevent the exercise of the decision-making power. Further consideration is ranging expert participation is for in a cool and atmosphere, before legislation can be Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WORCESTER,
Chairman,
Industrial Committee,
General Synod of the Church of England,
Social Responsibility

Behind the times

From the Direct
The Confederation
Sir, Mr. Clive J. Jones, director of two years', so I tell us. He is times. There hawks on boards for Mr Jenkins expect in two years it of boards by uni We must hope of are dashed. If it will be the death democracy.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN KETHEVEN
Tottenham Street,
London SW1H 9L

The right structure for participation Status and competence of safety officers

From Mrs M. Hamilton
Sir, The use of the title "safety officer" is misleading and "representatives" in Derek Harris's news item of February 2 is inaccurate and could cause a great deal of confusion among people not conversant with the safety representatives and safety committees regulations which will come into force on October 1, 1978.

Safety officers are qualified full-time safety professionals, and usually members of the Institution of Industrial Safety Officers. The safety representatives that the trade unions will be empowered to appoint under the new regulations will not be safety specialists, but employees who undertake to spend a portion of their working time in checking the adequacy of the arrangements for ensuring the health and safety of particular work areas or groups of workers whom they are chosen to represent.

These safety representatives will have no executive responsibility and no legal liability. They will be expected to have, or to acquire, the expertise of the safety officer. They will be instructed, by their employers and their trade unions, in sufficient basic safety knowledge to be of service to workers or work areas.

The safety officer, on the other hand, is management's adviser on the safety policy of the company, the appropriate legislation, and the total organization for ensuring the health and safety of the whole workforce.

There is no post union-appointed representative being to replace the safety officer. The safety officer is a professional, not a representative. The safety officer is a professional, not a representative. The safety officer is a professional, not a representative.

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1. An accounting system based on added value, rather than profit, where joint decisions are taken at all levels on how to increase it.

2. The introduction of the added value surplus concept which will allow directors to decide how the earnings should be allocated (a) to re-investment, (b) to capital investors and (c) to the employees.

3. A national pay policy which allows each organization to pay its employees a percentage of the surplus that they have created, without restriction other than taxation.

These proposals would go a long way to breaking down the barriers between the various attitudes prevailing at the moment. People working together in a business will always have differences. However, let us have an accounting structure that is congruent with participation at all levels. Then we can meaningfully talk how best we can work together for mutual benefit.

Yours sincerely,
C. J. MARGERISON,
8 Beechmount Close,
Baldron,
West Yorkshire.

From Mr D. J. Andrews
Sir, I well understand the concern of the Rev Richard Kingsbury (Business News, February 10) at being cast by his shopkeeping parishioners as a "suppliant" assumed to be "fraudulent". I am sure that Kingsbury must have a feasible explanation for him. Meanwhile, as for the suggested ways round his predicament, he may like to try my play which has proved successful on many occasions.

I often find myself visiting a garage or shop, particularly on weekends, and discovering that I have failed to bring my Barclaycard.

However, I have never failed to achieve my objective or to secure my purchases by tendering material possessions by way of security, and these range from my watch, signet ring and/or various articles of clothing depending upon the value of the purchases I am making.

There has to be a limit of course, particularly during the recent cold weather and on grounds of common decency. Nevertheless the vicar's collar and stock or cassock, or possibly the odd item of church silver, should serve as good security and proof of authenticity.

When making such deposits a receipt should be obtained from the shop or garage attendant and, if possible, a note made of his or her Barclaycard number. Deposits may be recovered later when either cash is tendered or the cheque has been cleared.

The only problem I have encountered with this hitherto infallible system is remembering where I have left my various possessions.

I will refrain from listing the items of clothing I am still trying to relocate for fear of embarrassing the vicar and your other readers.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. ANDREWS,
Flat 4,
16 Lansdowne Road,
London, SW20.
February 11.

From Mr F. H. Smith
Sir, With reference to Kingsbury's difficulty with his cheque book, surely a man of sufficient wit to withstand the temptation of using the card as facility? Alternatively, the difference between self-discipline of use within one's current and a Barclaycard issue limitation. To Mr Kingsbury and be Yours faithfully,
F. H. SMITH,
6 Egley Drive,
Mayford,
Woking,
February 10.

Dog collar sound security for a credit card?

From Mr D. J. Andrews
Sir, I well understand the concern of the Rev Richard Kingsbury (Business News, February 10) at being cast by his shopkeeping parishioners as a "suppliant" assumed to be "fraudulent". I am sure that Kingsbury must have a feasible explanation for him. Meanwhile, as for the suggested ways round his predicament, he may like to try my play which has proved successful on many occasions.

From Miss Sally Weir
Sir, There is a slight error in the Business News, Feb 10 and one which more bank customers should change your bank's time requesting a cheque, without credit facility on your Yours faithfully,
SALLY WEIR,
64 Speed House,
Barnham,
London, EC2,
February 10.

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Sir, With reference to Kingsbury's difficulty with his cheque book, surely a man of sufficient wit to withstand the temptation of using the card as facility? Alternatively, the difference between self-discipline of use within one's current and a Barclaycard issue limitation. To Mr Kingsbury and be Yours faithfully,
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February 10.

Difference in beer prices

From Mr J. M. Milner
Sir, Methinks that those who protest the loudest may have the most hide-I paid 36p for a pint of unknown origin in one pub and 28p for a named brew in my local. Why the difference?
J. M. MILNER,
City Architect and Planning Officer,
10 Oldhall,
Cambridge CB2 3QJ.

From Mr Gerald I. Ratin
Sir, I fall completely to understand the fears expressed by the Rev R. Kingsbury in his letter today about the risks involved in obtaining a Barclaycard.

If he chooses to use the card only as a cheque guarantee, he is quite free to do so. There is no charge. Neither is there a

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Dearest Soviet timber

Price increases averaging 10 per cent have been agreed by Exporters' timber sales organization, on its first 1977 offer of softwood for the United Kingdom timber market. Prices of the five grades of timber will be between £69 and £113 per cu. m, comparable with recent offers made to Holland and West Germany.

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Stockpilers

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Mayford,
Woking,
February 10.

Commodities

[illegible]

	Wheat	Wheat	Barley
NE England			£1.75
Berk.	£26.55	£26.50	£26.50

The UK monetary coefficient for the week beginning Monday, February 11 (based on HUCA calculations) is expected to increase to 1.347.

MEAT COMMISSION: Average (historic price) of 100 lb live weight, nights on February 17—Cattle, 37.14p per kg livewt (0.74); Milk Sheep, 138.8p per kg livewt (4.1); Gilt Pigs, 37.6p per kg livewt (3.0). England and Wales: Cattle numbers down 1.1 per cent; number prices up 56.50p (1.50); Sheep numbers down 3.3 per cent, average

According to Cipec, production of unrefined copper in the western world amounted to 6,112,000 tons last year, up from 5,724,000 in 1975. Cipec members accounted for 46 per cent of the total in both years.

Gold
Gold fixed: ton, \$135.00 (on contract) per, \$135.00.
Krugerrand (per coin): non-resident, \$130-140; (1514-524); resident, \$130-140; (1514-524).
Sovereigns (new): non-resident, \$46-48 (152-28); resident, \$46-47 (152-28).

Harrison-Malcolm Ind 79 Ord	40-1
Mid West Wire 90, Rd Pl (74)	21.0
	Latest date of payment
ALCOA 1984 Ex	..
AMZ Corp (ASX:75-)	..
	35 pence

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend
 † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a. £10 paid

Prized Units, Insu

CHICAGO GRAINS—Wheat closed with gains of 4¢ to 3½¢. WHEAT—March, 280½¢; May, 282½¢; July, 284½¢; Sept. 302½¢. Dec. 311½¢. March, 320¢; May, 321½¢; July, 323½¢; Sept. 325½¢. March, 277½¢. OATS—176¢; May, 173¢; July, 187½¢; 165¢; Dec. 166½¢.

[illegible]

According to Cipeac, production of unrefined copper in the western world amounted to 6,112,000 tons last year, up from 5,724,000 in 1975. Cipeac members accounted for 46 per cent of the total in both years.

Gold
Gold fixed: can, \$136.00 (on contract); yen, \$125.70.
Krugerrand (per ounce): non-resident, \$134-134½; (50%); resident, \$132-132½; (25%);
Sovereign (new): non-resident, \$40-42 (25%); resident, \$40-42 (25%);

HAGGAS			
TEXTILES			
INTERIM STATEMENT			
Directors of JOHN HAGGAS LIMITED have an Interim Dividend in respect of the year ending 1st April, 1977 of 1p per share on the issued Ordinary Capital.			
Dividend will be payable on 6th April, 1977, to shareholders whose names appear on the register of members at the close of business on 4th March, 1977.			
	Half Year ended 31st Dec. 1976*	Half Year ended 31st Dec. 1975*	Half Year ended 30th June 1976
	£000	£000	£000
Sales	9,511	7,775	16,713
Costs	315	283	589
Before Taxation ..	1,487	1,202	2,707
Tax	773	625	1,411
*Unaudited			
JOHN HAGGAS LIMITED			

[illegible]

Account Days : Dealings Began, Feb 14. Dealings End, Feb 25. §-Contango Day, Feb 28. Settlement Day, March 8

[illegible]

هكذا من الاصل

La creme de la creme Opportunities

-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

CJES

Knightsbridge Office
68 Knightsbridge, London W1
Telephone 01-235 2200, telefax 01-235 2201

An executive appointment for a mature efficient secretary in a stimulating and friendly environment.

CJES P.A./SECRETARY TO SENIOR PARTNER
LONDON, W.C.1 £3,750-£4,100

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FIRM OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS
Applications are invited from candidates aged 33+ who are used to dealing at senior level in a large international firm of consulting engineers. The firm is a well known organization engaged in public and private construction projects in many countries. The firm is seeking a mature, efficient, and experienced P.A./Secretary to the Senior Partner. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of correspondence, the organization of the firm's affairs, and the management of the firm's personnel. The successful candidate will be a member of the firm's staff and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. The successful candidate will be a member of the firm's staff and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. The successful candidate will be a member of the firm's staff and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

Switzerland— Secretary/Assistant

Required for the Chairman of an International complex of Companies.
English mother tongue. Good French.
Age about 30. 100 w.p.m. shorthand.
Good secretarial experience, plus ability to carry responsibility.

Salary 3,500 Swiss Francs per month.
Interviews—London.

Please reply in own handwriting and send photograph.
Box 0317 J, The Times.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Director of small London office of international oil group requires personal assistant to deal with all secretarial and minor administrative matters. Ideal person should be willing and capable to work on own initiative, shorthand and accurate typewriting essential, preferably able to speak another European language as well as English. Salary, e.c., by arrangement but candidates presently earning less than £3,500 p.a. unlikely to be suitable. Applicants are asked to send cv, including details of previous employment/s and education history, to: Mr P. Giannini, 2-5 Old Bond Street, London W1X 3TD.

ADMINISTRATION P.A./Secretary

A major advertising agency located in the Central London area, seeks an Assistant to its Administration Controller.
This demands of the individual a combination of business efficiency and tact and diplomacy (shorthand and typing are essential). You'll spend much time liaising with clients, contractors and office equipment suppliers. You must be able to demonstrate a flair to ensure that the people (200 plus) at the "sharp end" of the business can be confident that whenever they bring a client into the agency they will never have to apologise for any lapse in housekeeping.

It's a demanding job, which would appeal to someone probably in the 25-35 age range who wants more responsibility than is offered by a secretarial post. Salary will be negotiable, c. £3,500.

Write with full career details to Box 0388 J, The Times.

£1,000+

Can you accept as much responsibility as you are given? Are you really good at dealing with people? Prepared to work hard and keen to be involved? ... Then you are the person our client seeks as his Secretary/P.A. Age 28-35.

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARIES
01-629 9323

FIRST CLASS AUDIO/COPY TYPIST

TEMPLE £3,400
We are a Group of Barristers who seek a first class Audio/Copy Typist with initiative to become the third member of an enthusiastic team responsible for the administration of a new set of Chambers being established at the end of March. Working conditions are excellent, plus IBM Golfball.

01-583 4117

SECRETARY around £3000

Close to LONDON BRIDGE station. To work for Truman Tanners Regional Sales Manager. Good shorthand and typing skills necessary. Excellent benefits, 35-hour week, 4 weeks holiday, annual discretionary bonus, generous assistance with meals, discount on company products.

For further details, please ring our Personnel Dept., on 01-377 0026, ext. 163.

GERMAN STEEL CO.

£4,100
Seeking hard-working, efficient, Secretary, English mother tongue, English/German shorthand, capable of sending her own telex for diversified and demanding position (office near Oxford Circus).

Write giving full details Box 0263 J, The Times.

MANAGING DIRECTOR MATERIAL?

£3,500 neg.
Holding company of world-wide engineering and construction group. The Managing Director is seeking a mature, efficient, and experienced P.A./Secretary to the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of correspondence, the organization of the firm's affairs, and the management of the firm's personnel. The successful candidate will be a member of the firm's staff and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

SENIOR SECRETARIES
172 New Bond St., W.1.
01-409 0021, 01-453 5907

SEC/PA

Young expanding European advertising agency needs capable administrative to develop and coordinate the agency's affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of correspondence, the organization of the firm's affairs, and the management of the firm's personnel. The successful candidate will be a member of the firm's staff and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

CLOUGH, HOWARD, RICHARDS
11 Hanover Street, London W.1.
01-629 3727

YOUR PERSONNEL BEST YET!

U.K. Personnel Director of a vast international electronic business machine company in W.1 just lost his secretary. He is now looking for a mature, efficient, and experienced P.A./Secretary to the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of correspondence, the organization of the firm's affairs, and the management of the firm's personnel. The successful candidate will be a member of the firm's staff and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

TOP TYPE
(Mary Oulton's Secretary, Div.)
29 New Bond Street, London W1X 3TD

T.V. COMPANY

Super job in Press Office for Sec/P.A. Arranging programme previews and Press Conferences, dealing with journalists, etc. £3,000

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

of young Agency urgently needs P.A./Sec. to organize all correspondence, hand needed but rarely used. Experience preferable.

Salary £3,200 neg.
'THAT AGENCY'
188 Kensington High Street
01-937 4326

Bi-lingual Sec./P.A.

for European Controller of International Group of Companies. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the preparation of correspondence, the organization of the firm's affairs, and the management of the firm's personnel. The successful candidate will be a member of the firm's staff and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 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